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PIRATE.

By WEATHERBY CHESNEY and ALICK MUNRO.

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********** "I choose that you shall not." "Am I to be a parson, then?" "Certainly. Have you any objec

"I hate the work!" I said sullenly. "Ob, that's unfortunate, but I'm afraid I can't alter my decision. Now go and remember I forbid you to speak to Don Miguel's daughter." "But, father"-

"This discussion is at an end." Thus it happened that two days aft-

er the conversation with my father I was on my way to Cambridge, condemued to fit myself by hard study for the calling of a parson. My father was inexorable. The life.

'he said, had proved a congenial one to my ten brothers and must, therefore, be the best for me too. I combated the theory vigorously, but without preducing any effect on his mind, so I had to submit and go.

My father bought me a rough little galloway and having escorted me to the town boundaries and seen me fairly started on the road to York gave me a paternal blessing and a not too heavy purse and then turned back home.

It was the last time I saw him, for when years afterward I returned to Whitby he was dead. He was a good father to me, though in those days I used not to think so. But he lived by rule himself, and so he would have had the rest of us do the same, and from that effort on his part arose whatever there was of trouble among us From what I have seen in the case of other families I should imagine that we were not in this respect unique.

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No return in 14 years. Mrs. Maitland writes, under date of Feb. 24, 1903, that the cure is permanent.

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387 Send for "How to Cure Every Humour."

- was with a heavy heart thumping peneath my jacket that I rode slowly along the queen's highway. I was separated from my sworn shipmate; I | Now he spoke. was going to a life that in the prospect I loathed, and I had not been al lowed to see my sweetheart even to say goodby; sufficient reasons, all of them, for gloomy thoughts.

My meditations, however, received a somewhat rude interruption. I had let the reins fall on my horse's neck, and he was jogging along quietly with very little guidance from me, when the

sound of something moving in the hedge at the side of the road made him swerve violently to the other side and start suddenly forward. I was taken unprepared, and, being an unskillful horseman at the best of times, was deposited with more violence than srace on my back in the middle of the road. I lay there for a few seconds ctazed with the shaking, and when aot up and looked about me to see what had caused my uncomfortably father's orders just now, an if you sapid dismount, there was Alec standing looking at me, with his face all chance to come to you you'll slip the promising promotion when we deservcerned, when as a matter of fact he was shaking with laughter at my undignified maneuver.

"Hurt, Jack?" he asked at length with exaggerated solemnity. "No," I answered shortly. "Was ! you who frightened my horse?"

It does not matter." "Doesn't it? It only means that I shall have a pretty chase before I catch kim again. That's nothing, is it?"

"I suppose so, but as you're not hur

"Willie has caught him," said Alec. "Willie Trehalion here too?" "Yes. Oh, Jack, you did look ridiculous. To see your big, lumbering carcass roll over the horse's tail was a

sight for little fishes. Don't be angry, but I can't help laughing." "Oh, pray go on," I answered loftily and turned to take my horse from Wiltie Trehalion, who had come up while

we were talking. When I saw that his face, too, wore a comically deprecating look of amusement, I was just beginning to lose my temper with them both, when the thought of the ludicrous figure I must have presented struck me forcibly. My anger suddenly melted, and I laughed

as heartily as either of them. "Come, Master Topp," said Willie when we found our breath again; "better to laugh even if the joke's ag'in yourself than to wear that glum face you were carrying before we came an upset your gravity. You might have been attending your own funeral by the look o' you."

"Did you give Inez my message?" I asked, turning to Alec.

"Yes, and very nearly fell foul of the Spaniard in doing it." "What did she say?"

"She cried." "But the message. Didn't she send

me a message?" I asked impatiently. you expect one?" And then, seeing my look of disappointment, he added quickly: "There, Jack, I won't tease you longer. She didn't send a message, but she did better; she gave me

a letter for you." Now, I don't intend to tell what was in that letter. It was the first one ever received from my sweetheart, and it kept me happy for the rest of the journey. Need I say more?

They waited patiently till I had fin ished reading, and then Alec asked me what my plans were.

"Cambridge, I suppose," I answered "Parson?" he asked, with a mi

chievous grin. "So my father says." "Are you quite resigned to your

"Resigned!" I cried impetuously. "No, but now that I'm separated from inez and you i don't much care. "I am your sworn shipmate, Jack.

Don't forget that." "I don't forget it, Alec," I said, taking his hand.

"Pardon me; I think you do." "How?"

"You say that we shall be separated." "Well, so we shall. Cambridge and

Whitby are surely far enough apart." "I'm coming with you." "Alec! Do you mean it?" I cried in

Master Topp," put in Willie Trehalion sententiously.

"Yes, I'm coming," said Alec, "but I don't mean to turn parson for all that." "Wish I needn't," I grumbled.

"Why need you?" - santi's commanus. Wort eise cases me to Cambridge?"

"Why go to Cambridge at all? I don't mean to." "What?" I cried. "I thought you said

ou were coming with me." "So I am, but not to Cambridge." "Where, then?"

"London." "To London! What for? I don't understand you, Alec." "London is a port." "Well?"

"Ports contain ships. Ships go to sea. We go to sea. It's simple enough. Why, Jack, you don't mean to say you are willing to give up our plan of a seafaring life without a struggle." "No," I said, "but I hadn't thought

of running away to sea." "Why not? You'll never go in any other way if your father is set on putting you into the church. Now is the time to take our fortunes into our own hands."

"But, Alec"-"Will you do it?"

I thought for a moment before I answered. A vision of the dull round of books and lectures that was waiting for me at Cambridge rose before my eyes. I had just succeeded in throwing off the bondage of one schoolmaster, and it seemed to me that I was on my way to put myself into the power of seven others worse than the first. That thought decided me. "Yes," I said, "I will go with you."

Now, during this discussion Willie Trehalion had been darting questioning glances at us out of his solitary eye and rubbing his fur cap reflectively backward and forward on his bald pate with his book, a habit he had when anything exercised his mind.

"Masters," he said, shaking his head vigorously, "it won't do. 'Tis ten thou sand shames that a lad like you. Master Topp, should be made a parson an never wear iron except to cut his

meat with, but don't go ag'in your fa ther, lad. No good ever came o' doing that. You'll be a gould hunter some day, sure enough, an Master Ireland here a Spaniard killer, but wait till the proper time comes. Making a scholar o' yourself'll do you no harm, though they do say, 'Better go to sea on a Friday than sail under a captain as has book learning.' Seems to me, though, that It's the man as is to blame an not the learning, an nobody can deny that scraps o' Latin scattered through a bold speech'll do a lot to hearten men up when they're down. So Willie Trehallon's advice to you is to obey your keep up a stout heart an walt for your cassock an live to rob the Spaniard ed it.

on our enthusiasm. We knew that he and our life of adventure was begun. was thoroughly loyal to both of us, and his advice was on that account worth consideration. We argued the matter out, and in the end it was decided that I should continue on my road to Cambridge, while the other two went back to Whitby. I promised to wait a day or two at York, and Alec would meanwhile try to get his guardian's consent



to accompany me to Cambridge. If he succeeded, well and good; if not, he would still join me at York, and we would carry out our original plan of going to sea.

Willie demurred to this, but in the end he agreed to the compromise. And then we parted. He gave me to wear round my neck a charm which he had brought from the Barbary coast, a certain preventive, he assured me, against witchery of all kinds. Then we stood in the road, joined bands and sang "No," said Alec innocently. "Did | three times the verse of Willie's sea

Sail away. Hack away, Plunder! [Stamp with foot.] Gather all the valuables you can, etc. And thus we parted.

On the third day after this Alec joined me at York and announced that his uncle, who was his guardian, had given him leave to accompany me. So to Cambridge we went, and the paternal authority was not defied.

In the end, however, it made little difference, because, though Alec made good use of his opportunities for acquiring knowledge, I did nothing but amuse myself in the town, with the result that by a prolonged course of rioting and idleness made Clare Hall too hot to hold me.

I had not been in Cambridge two months when the inconvenient attention of the university proctors made it necessary for me to leave hurrledly. and as I had to go Alec said he would not stay either, so one night we fled, with the proctors' men after us. eluded them, however, by swimming ecross the river and without getting

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into more than an average number of scrapes on the road made our way to London. Three days in this city sufficed to exhaust our small stock of money, and there was only one course left open to us. Fortunately, it was the one we both most wished to fol-

ping we entered into conversation with found drinking strong ale with a toast in it and crunching raw onions as though they were aromatic sweetmeats. To him we confided our wish.

"Want to go to sea, eh?" he growled. "Well, it's a dog's life at first and not much better after; rancid salt pork to here onlon to be had for love or money; hard work, hard knocks and scurvy; that's what you'll get. If you're extra strong, you may stand it; if not, better steal a sheep and get comfortably ; hanged ashore."

And so he went maundering on. But finally, as he was short handed, he

On that very night we were entered This speech of Willie's was a damper on the books of the brig Surrey Hills,

CHAPTER V.

The brig Surrey Hills was engaged in the Venetian trade and did the double hovering round her mouth, and they voyage twice a year. Her owner was Master Simmonds of the Cheap, and a good servant she had been to him, having fought her way backward and forward between London and Venice against the united forces of wind, waves and picaroons for nearly five and forty years, as the evidence of many a scar on the timbers of her bull and on the faces of her crew could

Our first voyage out was a thoroughly prosperous one. Even the dreaded bay of Biscay was for once as quiet as the most timorous landsman could have wished. Arrived at Venice, we bartered our homely English goods for a cargo of fine glass and fron work from the workshops of the Water City and for curious stuffs and perfumes which its traders had brought from the far lands of Ind, Araby and

During the voyage home, too, our luck stuck to us. We had a fair wind the whole way, and the words "Trim sails, the watch!" hardly once fell on our ears. Wonderful good fortune, this, but it cost our captain the greater ! part of his crew, who declared that the ship was bewitched-and I was more than half inclined to agree with

This was the reason for their fears: When we were lying at Venice, our captain went to a Finn who dealt in charms and for the sum of 19 ducats bought from him that which would raise a favoring gale. It was wrapped in a skin case marked all over with cabalistic designs whose meaning none of us understood. What it contained I cannot say, for no man on the brig dared to risk his eyesight by gazing at the wizard's charm after its maker had warned him to keep aloof. But this I know, that while that bag was nailed to the masthead we never wanted for a fair wind to waft us home.

Yet there were signs that the Eye above saw with anger the magical device that eased us of the just labors of sea working. Almost every night while we were in the more southern latitudes pale blue lights would fly down to us out of the darkness and perch on yardarm or masthead. They were Corpos Santos-holy bodies-and we knew that they had come to threaten and not to protect, for when we greeted them with a psalm they held their places as though they did not hear a word of our singing.

We younger ones gazed at the omens with wonder and little more, but the older seamen were strangely disquieted, and as soon as we dropped anchor in the Thames and the wages had been paid more than 50 of them left the ship for good. I would have followed them, for I trusted to their older experience in such things, but Alec, as usual, ridiculed my superstition and said he meant to stay, so I had to stifle my qualms and stay too.

We were rewarded for our boldness for the captain not only appointed us to officerships and housed us in the after house, but undertook to teach us all the mysteries of navigation and seamanship, so that at the end of the voyage we were either of us competent to take the command of a vessel ourselves. And thus in the event it proved that our captain's deal with the devil was the beginning of our rapid rise in

the cample we had chosen. We stuck to the Surrey Hills for several voyages after this; until at last we suffered so much in a brush with a couple of piratical rascals from Sallee that, though we beat them off after a tough battle, the ship was so much knocked about that on our return home she was pronounced unfit for another voyage. And so we were out of a berth. Alec would have shipped from the Thames again for foreign parts at once, but I suggested that we should have a little fun on shore first. We staid a few days, therefore, in London, and then, finding that our money was melting much too fast, we started to walk around the south coast of Eng-

After a few unimportant adventures we arrived in time at Bristol, and there the emptiness of our purses compelled us to take ship once more. We got berths on board the Severn at Bristol, but our vessel had not got clear of the red waves of the Bristol channel when -opposite Bideford if my memory does not fail me-an accident happened to her which gave us another step up the ladder of fortune. Our captain died of a stroke, and Alec, who had been a deep sea pilot, stepped into his shoes, and I became the second in command. So far, at least, we could not grumble at the way fate had treated

Our cargo was a mixed one for Vigo Bay, and after a good voyage out we landed it there and took in Spanish wines in return. While the lading was going on we had plenty of time to spend on shore, and in one of our excursions we had an adventure.

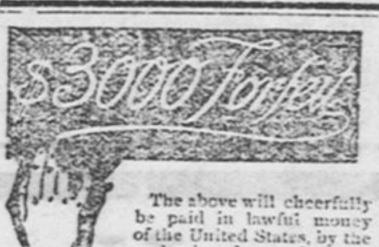
A sailor is always fond of a ride on horseback, and as Alec and I were no couple of very fair mounts and went for a ride into the country. We had left the town about half a league behind us, when we met a carriage con-In a low roofed tavern parlor in Wap- taining two men and a girl. One of the men had his arm round the girl and a gnarled old shipmaster, whom we was holding her fast, as though to prevent her from jumping out, and as we passed she gave a cry and waved her hand to us, whereupon the man who was holding her swore at her and called to the other to whip up his horse.

"Something wrong here, Alec," I exclaimed, but Alec had already turned eat, and not a savory morsel like this and was riding hard after him. I followed, and after a chase of about a mile we came up with them. We whipped out our pistols and shouted to them to stop or we would fire.

"Now," said Alec when they had pulled up, "out you get, both of you." Yielding to the eloquence of the two cocked pistols, they obeyed.

"You with the reins, hold the borse's head. If you move a yard farther on, I shoot. And you other scoundrel, hand the lady out. Quickly, now!"

They were unarmed or at least Lad no firearms, so they had to do as they were bid. As soon as she was out of the carriage the lady turned and faced the two ruffians with a defiant speer To be Continued.)



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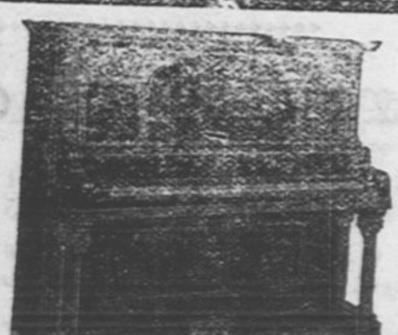
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