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PIRATE.

By WEATHERBY CHESNEY and ALICK MUNRO.

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----ly. "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 beaves 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 must stop 'em, Master Topp They know we'te here. I've seed 'em watching us. An if they gets bold 8' t this wa shall have the whole brood

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HAF AFFAFA IS ISAFE THE SPANIAFUS IN come with you and look at this will for myself," said i-

THE RESIDENT WAS FIGHT WE SENTE

THE YOUR WOUNDED ISS! SUSSESSED Willie daubtfully. "Posh! A mere gnat bits. The stiff: ness is wearing off aiready."

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

targer island. steep and without foreshore and put | if it's carried about too much. Besides | among whom we recognized the two me in mind of the piece between Scar- if the plot fails it is better that one doughty champions whose flying backs borough 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 be-

fore or since. standing out boldly in its barren blackness against the rich greenery of the malms beyond and towering nigh on 2,000 feet above the fallen wave worn rocks that fringed its base. Nowhere Its hateful crest could well have shat- realer slashes than a tailor makes. tered a ghoul or vampire.

scurried past its hungry flanks.

'tain's sullen precipices the eye fixed itself 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 figared coping overhung the wall by an arm span, and at the corners were buge carven monoliths representing grampant serpents, whose outstretched mecks and gaping jaws pointed to the four cardinal points. of the huge yellow clusters, we took a

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 mornment to its forgotten founders.

said, the Spaniards were laying wood for a signal fire upon the uppermost pinnacle. I could see two lusty fellows day they were built, though how the doing the work and a third, a little courses had been raised to their posibowlegged man with a bright steel bas- tion unless by magic puzzled me even sinct on his head, giving directions. I to guess. There was no roof nor trace recognized that our lives hung on the of any. The floor was bare save for chance of our being able to drive them wind borne rubbish and a great stone away, but I saw no means of doing it table in the middle which looked as and said as much to Wille.

fer Topp, an you'll choke him. The on here in bygone days. But no spot dons practices witches' craft, say you? Then witches' craft shall be the word. Save for a slanting footway that ran Wee that round stone before 'ee. sir? round two walls and gave access to the

Well, near it speak. It's got a message for you." good friend, is Willie Trehallon," said | now knew the secret of it.

hurry to escape from him."

"Ho, ho! Master Topp, smooth your | spoke afresh. Shantards off that bill as well as would I have

TAKE THAT IF WITH MITTER HE IF FFIENT FRH: MINSISE TREE: SR: BY FRHE | this into isaving the hill steam for the TRAYS I BHAH BYFTH ASTRAG HAARF reak the waves-an stow myself away in same granny to wait for the faget carriers in the morning."

But if they catch you?" "If they catch me," replied Willia Cave island. I shall take my sword." "Four arms are better than two, Wilie, though one of those two does carry

carcass would take a power o' hidin. | ter island, and a couple of paces behind an that hole in your leg will get angry | these two were the rest of the band, should be gastados, as they dons call | had given us a little while before se

it, than two." "Nevertheless I shall come. Two It was a forbidding pile of stone in the nearest thicket and be ready to right and left with the flat of their you're attacked. So no more object thought that the danger of being run

tions. I intend to go." We waited with some impatience till nightfall, and then, bidding the other could the eye discover a trace of vege- lads tell Alec when he came all that tation on its steep and frowning cliffs, had befallen, slipped down into the waand from the seaside at any rate it was ter. We had few preparations to make a citadel that would baffle the nimblest for our swim, as the only clothing of scaler. Its black heights were too des- which we could boast was a pair of olate for even the ocean fowl's perch; trunks apiece, and those gashed with

The sea was warm, and, striking out The very clouds seemed to shudder leisurely so as not to tire my wounded and draw in their gauzy bodies as they leg too much, we crossed over and coasted round the foot of the cliff, seek-But after a mere giance at the moun- ing 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

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 though it might once have served as an "Fight the devil wi' brimstone, Mas- altar in whatever devil worship went could we see where a man could hide.

terely plain as the coldest imagination

After a brief examination of aloft by the slanting footway to throw the Spaniards' pile of fagots over the cliff and then set about exploring the

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 cail of the great carven serpent which the approach from below. A little bur relieved the boatswaln and begut I motioned to Willie, and together we watched their advance. Now we should see what Willie's witchcraft could do.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Willie allowed the two Spaniards to get half way up the hillside unmolest-And to my horror and amazement the | ed, and then he broke out. With a stone began in a high cracked voice to | shrill laugh which echoed to and fro in bid me send the boatswain across to | the gullet of the serpent and out the mountain so soon as ever it got | through the fanged jaws in a very catdark and then to trust him to settle aract of discordant sound, he raised a with the Spaniards. "He's my very din which startled even me, though I

The Spaniards stopped, gazed at one the stone, "and as such the knave dons will tumble over one another in their inother with scared faces and looked as though the movement of a leaf "Now, Master Topp?" asked Willie, would make them turn tall and fly. 'Their ears told them that the din came But I was all in a sweat with fright. I from the stone serpent; but, then, who "Avaunt!" I said. "Get thee behind ever heard of a serpent laughing? Not me, Sathanas. Domine in manus since the days of Mother Eve had such tuas"- And there I stuck, for my a thing been, and so, plucking up their Latinity had grown rusty with too long | courage again, they continued on their way. But at the first step the serpent

hair again. Willie Trehalion doesn't In the best Spanish which Willie dabble in the black arts. It's naught Trehallon could muster it called them but a trick. See, I keep my mouth | currile knaves and cowards and a vaclosed so an speak from the back o' my riety of other choice names, in which guilet so. It took me many a day's the boatswain had a true sailor's fluhard practice to learn the trick, but by | ency, and when they were thoroughly keeping it secret it has served my pur- | scared-as who would not have been in sose a-many times already an mebbe | a like case?-it bads them 'bout ship will again. Anyway it will keep the and run if they wished to live another

And that these two doughty Span-"Will it?" said i Bretending to doubt | tards Brombtly did, thereby making Whathar it wante, for how that I know | Willia file his his hook electuity and I my that was shif a trick i was het a little | two hands: for we thenesh we had si PRETURBY FRIGHTSHEN THEM AND HIT THEIF SHIFARSS IS WHOM THEE WOULD THE FAR

into her treasure room." We had reck: oned without Don Alignel, for scarcely had another two hours passed when a the bush below. The serpent had rout-Would it rout 20, with the at-

chemist captain to lead them? At the head came Don Miguel, and with him the bandy legged little chap with the bright steel bassinet whom "Best not, Master Topp. Your great | we had seen the day before from Shel-

much satisfaction. As the party drew up in the open may succeed where one would fail, and | Willie Trehalion saluted them with a as for my leg it can still deal a kick | shrill mocking laugh, which had the that most men would be unwilling to effect of making the rank and file turn stand against. And if I'm too big to be | round as if preparing to bolt. But the hidden in the building I'll find a covert | two officers dealt such hearty buffets make a diversion from the rear if swords that the fellows had evidently through by the flery Don Miguel was a more pressing one than that of being devoured by a mere stone serpent. They stood their ground, therefore; the five arquebusiers unslung their crutches and blew their matches, the two bowmen fitted an arrow apiece, and the rest crammed their bonnets well down over their foreheads and waited

for they knew not what. "Come up, good senores all," croaked the serpent's grating voice, when Don Miguel gave the word for advance. "Come up and defile this holy court and commit any indignity that pleases you. Come and build your signal fires on my wall and make my stones riga with your impious cursing. Ha, ha, ha! Pluck up your faint hearts, caballeros. I will not hinder while you work your wicked wills. Batter down these stones and hurl them into the sea if you wish. I will not harass you in the work, but afterward-then-ha, ha, ha!"

The serpent said no more, but the pause and the wild yell of laughter were sufficiently suggestive.

The Spaniards stood for a moment aghast. He of the bassinet was apparently the most scared of the lot, for his bandy legs shook visibly under him and his sword clattered to the ground as he clasped his hands and began to call upon the saints to shield him. Had he been in command every man would have used his heels as soon as his quivering muscles gave him strength to do so. But Don Miguel was different. He

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stormed, he cursed, he ground his yes low teeth, he all but foamed at th mouth in his frenzy of rage, and yielding to the greater terror of the two each man stood his ground. "Miserable coward!" yelled Don Mi

guel at his lieutenant. "What do you faar?" "The devil," said the bandy legged man, taking off his bassinet and wiping

the perspiration from his brow with the sleeve of his doublet. "The devil, you poor fool! Where's your wit? Is not the devil clever be-

yond all human learning?" "Aye, surely. We believe so," replied the other, crossing himself devoutly. "Good! Then how do you account for his speaking such villainous Spanish as came from up yonder? Full half of the words were not understandable, and in those which did bear some faint resemblance to Castillan there was, or my ears deceive me, a strong flavor of the barbarous English tongue. Bah! Don Sancho, you're little short of a pol-

"Hard words, Don Miguel, and I may call upon you to prove them," said the

Sther Sullenig: "Do it then: My sword is ever reads to back up my tongue. But first follow tines as a man against the maginal

ABO HE THEY FRIES WITH BIT THEIF FO RETHE: THE REFERENT BENT HEWER & BET PSSE FAIR OF WATHINGS AND SHEESE HA HER WEER HEE TO BE HISBRED RENTH: "HERE HAID I. WASH FORM HASSF INCH

of breath Willis Trebation had ceased his outery, "they've got the better of us BRY. I fancy. Don Miguel will soon and the entrance to our snall's home "There's two wars o' getting at

snall's body, Master Topp," replies Willie sententiously. "One is by botling the shell, an the other is by crushing it. Don Miguel can do neither." "A pinch of salt or a whiff of smoke will make him show his horns."

"Don Miguel bain't able to get nigh us to plant the salt-leastways I pities the man as tries to come up them stairs, an as for the reek they may



At the head came Don Miguel build as big a fire as they like below, but we shall always be able to get fresh wind at the chimney top here."

"And with our store of bananas we can stand a considerable siege on short rations? Exactly so. But I was not thinking of our own skins. I was figuring out how we might manage to trap Don Miguel, and now I think I see a way. You noted a small dark cell just at the foot of the stair leading up here? Well, my plan is this: You stay where you are, and I'll go below and hide in that cell. Don Miguel will enter-if he doesn't come of his own accord, I'll venture to send him a hail of invitation-he will pass me and go up the stair. Then I shall step out and deal with all who try to follow, and as two men cannot advance abreast it will be an easy enough task. As for the senor commandant, we have him between two swords and ought to be able to take him alive."

"Master Topp," said the boatswain, saluting with book and forehead, "your brain's sharpening right wonderful. The first jacket o' honest ale that wets my lips shall be drained to your health. But," he added eagerly, "let me fill the cell an hold the lower alley."

"No. It is my plan and so my choice. You have the post of honor, for it will be yours to tackle Don Miguel, and a tough customer you'll find him. But do not kill him, Willie, if you can avoid

H'm! I'm thinking I shall thrust

guard plate deep, Master Topp. You would yourself if you'd suffered onehalf o' what I have." "Still, spare him. He's of more worth EVERY NUM ZER COMPLETE IN ITSELF to us alive than dead at present. Afterward"- I stopped. Great heavens.

it was of inex's father that I was speaking thus: "Aye, afterward!" growled Willie, "Afterward, Master Toppi There'll be a bitter reckoning when Captain Ireland comes. You may lay your last tester on that. But in the meanwhile I'll thrust as daintily as the don will

I picked my way down the windings of the passage in the serpent's body the Spaniards were doing up above and

minded; but, hoping that Willie Trehalion would take him at his leisure and with a reasonably whole skin, I lay

quiet and let him pass. His followers trailed on leisurely enough, and their leader must have climbed the greater way up the stair before I stabbed the first of them. The second played me a couple of passes, and by the time he rolled over Don Sancho, who came next, was in full flight down the passage. I sped after him, but he was too quick for me and sprang up among his fellows. The whole crowd then made threatening demonstrations against me, but not a hero of them would accept a civil invitation to come down and have it out

It was just like a bear pit. I was the bear at the bottom, who could not get at the yapping hounds above without being slain, while they did not dare to descend and bait me. And so, seeing that one of them had unslung his arquebus and was fixing its crutch and blowing his match for a shot, I left to see how Willie Treballon had fared

with Don Miguel. Their struggle must have been a chamber in the snake's head I found the Spaniard lying on the floor with the squat figure of the beatswain MINTERSTRANCE BY BE SEED BOTTON BUTTER BETTER BETTE

It With it HIGH toffentiffe niett.

tike a calf a, and I thought his face the most devilish and fearsoms my eyes had ever fallen upon. Then, as if suddealy recellecting himself, he closed his mouth, smiled and lay before us a pale, perfect Apollo. The suddenness of the change sent a cold shudder through me-it smacked so much of magic. The boatswain, too, was plainly not a little disconcerted, for he set to work scratching his bare, shining poll with the hook, a sure sign that he was wis-(To be Continued.)

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