PIRATE.

B->----

By WEATHERBY CHESNE

and ALICK MUNRO.

***** "You are not offered a choice, senor.

Chesney and Alick Munro.

"You refuse to kill me?" "Absolutely."

"Ah, then, I surrender. Your punishment is more degrading than your task. I accept the lesser indignity." "So? I thought you would," said

Alec. "Here, gunner; appoint this man to a gang and give him a task suitable to his strength."

CHAPTER XX. A wall of stone four feet thick, surrounding a small well barred door. completely closed the entrance to the cave and made it a prison that seemed inbreakable. One solitary sentinel was amply sufficient to guard it, and indeed so confident were we of ita shore level storehouses and so on, aur rounded by a stockade and earthwork the plateau above. A zigzag path from all danger from the fevers which the clammy night mists of the harbor might give birth to was averted. The houses, built of bamboo and thatched when our work was done, while Alec with broad leaves, lay in and among | pondered and labored, the rest of us a grove of graceful feathery palms whose waving fingers fanned the hot | wine, spun yarns of mermaidens and

possible undisturbed. Lovely flowers grew everywhere, of rainbow tinted color. The leaves | man made for us and which be delightof rich blossom. A myriad scents songs they were, and the old man's grant with the essence of paradise. Nor like a demon's accompaniment, but to | protection against boarders, I shall mawas the luscious picture confined to some of us their very horror was their still life only. Strange insects like | charm. animated Jewela hummed through the But when the labor of collecting the air. Painted butterflies whose color- | planks and timbers was nearly over by tag no human brush could reproduce | our captain's orders we others began green fire, shot across from the shadow | fastest and handlest lines, making her of one great plant to the shadow of in fact a model from which, as we beanother, And overhead the gayly lieved, the larger vessel for which we plumaged birds fluttered about or had collected our material could best perched on the branches and sang to be built. Put upon our mettle by a

grad it not been for the draves of steel jawed mosquitoes which haunted would have asked better than to spend | from forecastle to aftercastle, she was | ventured to remonstrate. But before his days on such a favored spot. But the insatiate blood thirst of these insect enemies prevented us from degenerating into mere lotus eaters, and the first spark of dawn was our call to work.

We worked hard-the English urged by habit and hope, the Spaniards by example and rod. A second boat was found lying in a rock pool stove in, but repairable, and with this and the other one which we already possessed the carrack's stores and cargo and the jetsam from the galley were safely housed ashore. Then began the heavier toil of unpiecing the vessels, stripping off the unsplintered planks and frames, the unbroken knees and elbows and transporting them to the site whereon we

intended to lay stocks for our new keel. It was slow work, as any one who has broken up a ship will know, for Bolt and clamp and treenail had each to be drawn with curious care lest timbers for sheathing should be split and trimmed sails the two vessels were about. so rendered unfit for further use. But time and perseverance were the chief factors toward success, and by lavishing both freely we at length finished the dismantling of the two wrecks and carried or towed their contents to the

Weach in front of the cave. fover since we bad settled in our upfand village among the palms Alee had been employing his spare time in carvding and rigging a succession of toy ahips. Nobody had taken much notice of him, for it was not his habit to court public applause and as yet he had not naked for public criticism. He would work by the dickering drelight for into the night and appeared so wrapped up | that forty peop and looked down at the his labors that sometimes we would the pygmy eyew in the waist below

opens three or four times to him not get an answer. More than once fancied that he was under a spell and wondered whether Don Miguel had the power of the evil eye. For indeed my sworn shipmate's manner was often strangely distracted.

Sometimes he would sit gazing moodily at his work; sometimes he would stare intently at the fantastic shadow pictures which the jerky flames cast on the dark bushes at the edge of the circle of light, and then he would set to (Copyright, 1900, by Weatherby of and destroy a greater part of the fabric he had toiled over and start patiently to fit and carve it all afresh.

And the old man, who, when not on guard below, seemed always to be watching these attempts, would rub his shining hands and burst out into a weird "Oh, ho, ho!" of approval.

Now and again the modeler would take one of his tiny craft to a secluded part of the harbor and openly saying he wanted no company would test it, so we supposed. And how his playthings had behaved in these trials we could always guess by the look on his grave face when he returned, pleased or gloomy according to the result.

strange vessels in the old days at Whitby, where the unbelieving jeers of the shipwrights had made him destroy them, and though I and the others, wait, wait, and not criticise the unfinished work until we could base our judgment on shown results rather than on the strange and unlikely looks of his new models.

And so in the long summer evenings smoked our cigarillos, drank palm -air into coolness, and the natural gar- sea monsters and giants such as Maden around them remained as much as | gellan found by the icy southern ocean. And sometimes we sang the old sea songs of England, and sometimes again

sensuously from bloom to building a ter ship of our own, design-Lizards, like flashes of pale | ing her upon what we considered the the sun throughout the whole of his | challenge to pit our brains against the captain's, we spared no pains to perfect the details of our little craft, and | point in our ship and sticking up for so from boltsprit to mizzen, from the the innovations on his own so fiercely poop lanterns to the heavy round tops, that, losing my temper somewhat. as pretty a plaything as the heart of a | ten sentences had passed my lips the sailor could desire. And that when put | old man interrupted.

> petition on the ruffled waters of the here you are trying in your crass ignolards away snugly in their jail (except | scourge that was ever made to swing some half a score who were dispatched | against their idolatrous backs. I tell on a pig hunt and afterward were the you, Jack, and you, my masters all, I cause of no little uneasiness to us) all | tell you-I, who have thrown you a hands assembled to see the trial.

ours, and when each navigator had | greedlest of you scarce dare dream headed, with the wind straight offshore, toward the other side of the

As regards looks, our bark unquestionably made the braver show. Her square stern towered out of the water like the gable of some quaint old Shiloh's house, and her frowning ports commanded the sea all around. Her Consumption courses, topsails, spritsail and missen beilled out in graceful curves, and her bluff, sturdy bow rode ever the wavelets like some restive charger and keel. Proud would the pygmy captain have been who could have stood on that lofty peop and looked down at

as they passed in and out of the doors of their house in the forecastle. She was a pretty craft and one that made a mariner's heart burn within him in joyful anticipation of her certain vic-

tory. Alec's vessel caused no such thrill. She was low in the water, had no castle forward, had not even a raised poop and possessed but one deck and that flush through all its length. Her bows were sharp and much cut away, which augured ill for her safety in a heavy sea (though truth to tell she seemed to ride over the ell high waves of the harbor as dry as our own vessel), and her stern was pared down to nothing where the rudder meets the water. A strange sight truly.

But it was her rig which excited our greatest wonder. Her two pole masts had no round tops and but little of shrouds or stays. Moreover, they carried nothing but fore and aft canvasoblong sails hoisted between geff and boom inboard and triangular sails on the boltsprit. She had only four sails in all, and so strangely were they cut that there was no sign of bag in them WALL SUREEL SELL SEE THE SERVED and in a word they set as flat as

Yet in spite of all our yeasel did not show the other craft her heels, but seemed rather to be straining every splinter to keep her place.

The two went ashore within three seconds of one another, and the men who were waiting their arrival took them up and hailed that Captain Ireland's boat was first.

Ah, well, we'd see what she could do on a wind. Not much there, some of us

Once more sail was trimmed, and the little craft were set to claw off a dead lee shore, with what was to them a heavy beam sea running. It was a task in which many a well found ship of great tonnage had utterly failed, as thousands of rock gashed corpses can witness, and we, for our part, were unwilling to try it. Alec, however, said his vessel could thrash through, and so we could not for very shame refuse the

For the little galleon our fears were but too well founded. Close hauled as she was, with all her sheets well aft, like a sentient being she did her very best, striving and striving to labor out to sea, but sagging more and more to leeward with every attempt. And at last a wavelet, a trifle lustler than those which had gone before, hove her high and dry upon the beach from which she had started.

But Alec's model was in a differen plight. With never a shred of canvas shivering she reached out over the mimic billows, never swerving from her course by a handsbreadth, groov-His knife had fashioned similar ing her slanting path up the watery hills and slipping down into the valleys with her decks as dry as the burning

sun above could make them. Though smarting with defeat, w could but admire the power of this new sea engine. She sailed some seve her speed was incontestable, and in anything like moderate weather two hands could put her about with ease.

Still, though she might be as agile as a panther, we were by no means in love with her as a battleship and rained out objections in a perfect storm.

To these Alec listened gravely enough at first, but presently his eye lighted up, and he answered with an amount of irritation and heat which was unu-

"To the ship breaker with your clumsy apple bowed floating fortresses!" he framed in slender fern fronds. Orchids | new songs of Spanish torture, of blood | handy in a sea. Look at my beauty, hung from the trees in twisted masses and of revenge, songs which the old how she sits the water like a duck. of the shrubs were hidden in a cloak | ed to teach us to sing. Cruel, devillah | the waters close behind her delicate stern, leaving no heavily dragging commingled, and the breeze was fra- weird laughter ran through the chorus | wake. And as for lofty sides being a neuver so that no enemy can ever get near enough to lay me aboard. And the lower your freeboard the smaller,

remember, is the enemy's target. You ask where are my castles on bow and stern. Why, you unobserving dolts, did you not hear before we left England that Captain Hawkins of Plymouth was razing them from all his ships as a lubberly incumbrance fit only for land loving cowards who could not fight except from behind a stock-

and so he ran on, decrying every

to the trial she would prove fastest in | "Oh, ho, ho!" chuckled he. "Empty sailing, quickest in getting about and | headed Jack, what a pity you're not a handlest to fight her builders had not a Spaniard, for surely a more mulish bigot never stuck to a foolish cause. It was declared a holiday when the Why, good numskull, you're always two little vessels were placed in com- prating of your hatred for the dons and harbor, and after stowing the Span- rance to belittle the most cunning dozen or so of true prophecies before-Two courses were to be sailed-one a I tell you that you outlandish craft | to Alec to come back, and after makdead run before the wind, the other a | which is now working her way almost | ing sure that our storehouses were untrial of speed class hauled-for, as Wil- in the eye of the wind shall work a | touched returned to the cave. lie Trehalion justic pat it, "a haystack | deed the like of which no English bark, can drift, but it takes a tidy ship to like manned, has ever worked before. run to windward in anything like | She shall fight a single handed fight with a great galleon and capture her, Alec captained his own bark and I and there shall be spoil such as the

"And so off cap every one of you to

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tioning. Oh, ho, ho! 'Tis a merry world, but peopled with fools."

CHAPTER XXI. Close contests and heated arguments make men hungry, so when the trial of our toy ships was over we returned to the little village under the palm trees with appetites sharpened for our sup-

We were doomed to be disappointed, however, for there were no Spanish slaves waiting our return with freshly killed pork as we had hoped. Wel nearest rising ground, but saw no sign, ing was making the swine more shy and difficult to find, we made shift to

selves down on luxurious natural moss couches, we blew our tobacco smoke up into the still night air and chatted battle of the toy ships over again point by point and not giving the Spanish foragers so much as a thought.

But when Job Trehallon yawned and said he'd turn in if his stomach weren't so empty every one began to wonder to ask if they had gone straight to their jail without reporting themselves.

The sentry said no and expressed stinately refused to tell us. surprise at seeing his captain there, "for," he said, "you took boat down f of the Spanish ships had been spoiled, harbor, come an hour agone," "Why didn't you hall the boat,

"I did, captain," replied the fellow in an aggrieved tone, "an you answered that you was bound for Galley island." At this I broke out into a storm of | One would have thought, moreover, but Alec cut me short, bidding me the old man kept trained on his prisoncolgn of vantage on the outlying spit, running like an untired man at the beginning of a race, while I, with a crowd at my heels, tore down to the

One boat had gone, sure enough, and the other lay high and dry. We reached her and found that the Spaniarda had taken a simple method of preventmg pursuit. They had removed all the wars, anowing went chough that we had

We could do nothing, for before we could aplit up new oars they would be far beyond our ken, as there was no



were more dangerous than dead ones?" moon, and in the darkness we stood no chance of finding them. So we halled At the door we were met by the old

a fire of green wood at the mouth of

the cave and smoke out the rest of the

hive before they, too, manage to free

their stings. You frown at my advice.

Ah, but you're young, my most chiv-

alreus captain; young and tender heart-

be. By words are wasted new but

ed, for as yet you've suffered only triv-

I lat injuries at Spanish hands! Oh, be,

"Oh, ho, ho!" he cackled. "So Don Miguel and his fellow scoundrels have taken the first chance of breaking their plighted word. Didn't I tell you that live Spanjards were more dangerous good," because he makes it himself. than dead ones? And you derided mw words and called me a savage and murderer. Ab, ha, a merry buzzing hernets' nest they'll bring about your ears presently! Then maybe your squeamishness will pass away and the sour blue Spanish blood will flow in rivers. But if you were wise, Captain Ireland, A FAMILY LIBRARY you would give orders at once to light

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may be you'll five to see their wisdom. "Olo man," said Willie Trehallon solemnly, seeing by Alec's face that a storm was coming, "stop your bloodthirsty babblag an go an lark with Nephew Job, you, crazy playmate." And the old man, after glowering ver omously at his in errupter, did as he was told, and the two of them gam-

ed with knucklebone for a maravedi a throw until far into the night. Next day we laid the first phonk of our new ship, and thenceforward the flat by the cave resounded with th.9 bubbing of adzes, the ring of hammers, the jarring of saws and the songs of the workmen, a discordant medley enough, but to our ears the sweetest

First arose a bristling thicket of ribs, the bare, unsightly skeleton. Next a skin of planking, rising from rabbits on the keel, spread slowly over the superstructure till it reached the deck beams and then continued upward to form a strong protective bulwark, gapped with small rowports and larger gun embrasures. Then tough treenalls pinned the deck planks on their bed and by and by began the music of the calker's iron and mallet. When every stroke of the ax or hammer was stroke nearer to freedom, there was little chance that the work would be-

Our Spanish slaves were useless except for porter's work, and of the English none had served an actual apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade. let such was the energy which our captain's enthusiasm infused into every man of us that, incredible though your captain and follow his bidding it may seem, I, John Topp, solemnly without more of your ignorant ques- | declare that the schooner Scourge kissed the waters of the harbor three months and four days after the first timber of her keel was laid on the stocks.

What a shout we raised as her stern swooped joyously down to meet the element she was destined for! Eagerly, as though flinging from her graceful sides the dishonoring taint of earth, she embraced the water. Her forward rush was stopped by the stout warp of esparto grass which bound her, and she swung sharply round to a standstill. And before the wave she threw hailed, but got no reply; went to the up had spread a dozen fathoms we made a simultaneous rush upon her and so, concluding that incessant hunt- clever red polled architect and hoisted him high above our shoulders.

And when we had had enough of fill our stomachs with any odds and | cheering for Captain Alec Ireland some ends which the larder happened to of us were uncomfortably hourse, while contain. Afterward, throwing our- as for the old man be could not laugh above a whisper.

But the Scourge was a mere hulk se far and not a well fitted fighting ship, over the events of the day, fighting the | and so it was to work again without premature holiday. Masts had to be made and stepped, rigging to be deand stitched from the unpickings of older sails. And these labors, with the

> secure, but arms, small and great, and body armor we found in abundance, enough to have supplied two such ships

as the Scourge. abuse at the sentry for his stupidity. | that the great Spanish bombard, which

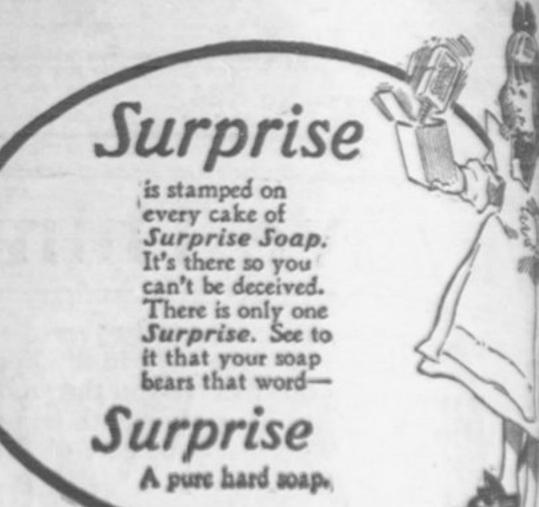
Alexander Ireland was not as other To be Continued.)



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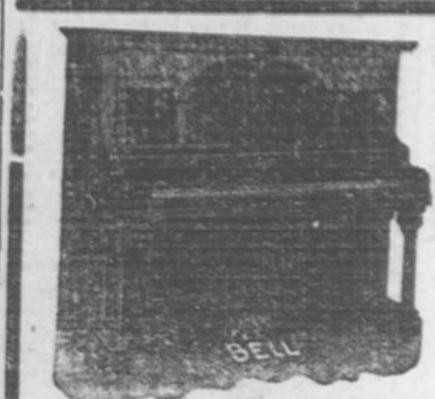
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have felt consty able mention of many tourists ctopping place MP. Jackson bent his herest as Beaten and falls

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