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PIRATE. By WEATHERBY CHESNEY

and ALICK MUNRO. (Copyright, 1900, by Weatherby

Chesney and Alick Munro. Decented to night.

as as que, no man can say that John Topp was ever backward in a fight against those who were defending goods or treasure. But be that as it lenged: The sun was balancing over the west-

ern water line when I came on deck again, and the cliffs of Margherita were showing in a low, dark line fine, on the lee bow.

Willie Trehalion was steering, with this one brawny hand on the tiller and the tiller rope cast on to his hook with a couple of half hitches. His one eye took an occasional squint aloft and then rove once more along the land ahead. The vessel was rising it rapid-Ty, charging the short seas with her sharp stem and riding over them dry decked like the beauty she was. Our Scourge was a craft of which every There were none of those dull swishing thuds of green wave against round apand shudder as though cringing under IF WE SHEWED BUTSELVES to Marcharita should shapert SHF H make feady an uncomfortably amoru to risk ar such a Bisce of care:

ant without rain or haze-just such a might as our purpose asked for. Al were on deck, eager and expectant, for word had been passed that his Pueblo del Norte was close under our

Now, there is and has been from time immemorial a custom among fighting men to put on their best clothes to do battle in. The sea dandy of the queen's ships would turn out in all the bravery of puffed and bolstered hose and trunks and with a starched ruff circle as big as a puncheon head cumbering his chest. But we wore our best-and worst-clothes every day; in fact, we had no more than one suit aplece, and that a skimpy one. We could not, therefore, honor the conflict by much change of apparel. True, there was Spanish body armor in plenty if we had cared to put it on, but body armor has never found much favor with English sailors, and, moreover, it was monstrous heavy and uncomfortable. So, with the exception of a metal helmet spiece, which Alec insisted that each of us should wear, we were prepared to go into battle protected only by our own quick sword play and the supple

strength of our iron muscles. And when the Scourge was hove to and the boats dipped into the water there scrambled into them surely the crew that ever set out to capture a town. Most of us lacked shoes and hose, some of us even wanted a shirt; but, though a scarecrow would not have taken our ciothes as a gift, every man was armed to the teeth with jewel hilted swords and daggers, and our hopes told us that we were likely soon to have other-gear to match the quality

CHAPTER XXIV.

of our side arms.

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

ish bullets. Once Alec's boat got on a ledge of rocks, and her crew had to climb overboard and lift her into deep water, and once mine had to be eased over a shoal. But no damage was done to either of

them, and the quietness with which we worked prevented any telltale sound in the very heart of the town." from reaching the shore.

way by instinct, as it were, through the | my guide." velvety darkness. Not a light showed loom of the high rocks on the harbor's sides we could hardly tell sea from land. Sheltered from the wind, the tarnished mirror, and, in spite of all the caution with which we dipped and raised the oars, a splash now and then a Surrace sound travers tar in the quies | ing away from the Spaniard, "there's

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

"There's a fort of some sort here," shouted Alec, "between me and the your axes all those who try to come shore. Follow in quickly before they out. You understand?" can bring their guns to bear.'

Hardly had the words left his lips | grimly. when there was a flash and a roar, and

HAFTHAN THE BIRSE BY BISSELT, HEBETAY for Captain treiand an the Scourge! their backs to the work that before at Sther 80 seconds had nassed the host



The man on shore fired his pistol. So saying, I turned and cut across the rocks to the left, with the men after me helter skelter. The fools of Spaniards were still blazing away with canthough many had the will, no one had | plunder. the power to cut me down.

Breech to breech with the very demiculverin that had first been fired at us a tempest of hacks and haws that, spot. dazed and half awake as they were, they had no stomach to stand against, against a corner of the palisading.

from their sleep and, taking us be- made after them. tween two fires, were like to have | On being pursued they dropped their weight of numbers. Rapidly forming | every man slinging two of the pouches - we rought to his belt, and then going to the buildfor awhile for our very lives, with a grinning circle of yellow Spanish teeth ravening at us on every side.

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

This was the turning point. A few more Spanish heads were broken before we succeeded in joining our two bands, but when that was once effected the combat was of short duration, for, shouting, after our usual custom, that we'd slaughter every soul unless they threw down their arms at once. we

rusned them all into two opposite corners and held them so till every weapon was out of their hands. "Jack, take a couple of men with you

and go and examine the barrack," cried I did as he bade me and returned presently to report that there was a large room in which we could hold the failed them all, therefore, with the exception of the commandant, in their own quarters and, after setting guards

done next. Alec questioned the commandant. "How many men have you here?" "Some 180, senor, and had I known how small your handful was I would never have surrendered to you. However, in the town"-

at the door, cast about what was to be

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

"And, asking, intend to have. Recognize, senor, that might is right just now, and so save further bloodshed." The Spaniard shrugged his shoulders.

Englishman. You ask for all we have

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

"Very well, senor; to the heart of the Foot by foot we crept on, feeling our | town I go for them, and with you as

"Senor Captain," said the commanfrom the sleeping town, and but for the | dant indignantly, "consider my rank!" "That is precisely what I am doing," replied Alec dryly enough. "You enjoy at present the rank of prisoner to Alexwater had become as smooth as an un- ander Ireland, who will hold your body responsible for any ambush your tongue may lead him into. "And now, lads," he continued, turn-

dawn beginning to show over the hill, Presently the voices of two men talk- and so the less time we waste the beting came to us across the water, and | ter. Carry the powder down to the after a minute or so one of them chal- | boats, and when it's safely stowed tell the boatkeepers to shove off a couple of oars' length from the shore. Armorer, spike all those culverins but one, break the pans and stocks from "Mother of God, those accursed Eng- | the arquebuses and cut the crossbow lish!" exclaimed the man on shore and strings. Willie Trehalion, I leave you fired his pistol. We smothered a laugh | here with four men to guard the barat the poorness of our boatswain's rack door. Slew that culverin round Spanish and, as further caution was | and fire mumchance into the crowd of now useless, bent to our oars with a | them if they get restive, and if that does not silence them post your men ou either side of the door and baptize with

"Aye, aye, sir," replied the boatswain

senor, no attempts at escape, if

bath: Bars toward the town: It was are greeted our approach, but it touch ed no one and only changed the more

Alec was among the first knot, while was puffing and blowing full 20 fathoms astern, and his rashness very nearlow leaped on him from behind and had him on the ground before he could shake off the embrace. However, Job Trehalion's lean, long legs brought him on to the scene in time, and Alec's captor rolled over with a head split to the

By the time our captain had got on his legs again the rest of us bad come up, and together we drove the townsfolk down their street in a body, shouting that we'd fire the houses if they made us nait. The Spanish commandant had contrived to bolt when Alec's non and arquebus overhead, showing | hands were full during the first melee, us what a state of confusion they were | and so we pushed on without a guide, in, and till I had actually squeezed by | trusting that instinct would lead us to big carcass in through an embrasure no | where the jewels were stored, for in one offered to stop me. And after that, I truth some of us had keen noses for

As it turned out we made two false searches, taking the trouble to overhaul a couple of stone buildings which were held the ground till the others nicked only food stores and dwelling places. their way through the darkness and | Indeed, we were very nearly done out clambered up. Then, yelling to tell of the booty altogether, for the Span-Alec our whereabouts, we charged to- | fards made a clever and desperate atgether, driving the dons before us with | tempt to carry off the pearls to a safer

In the event, however, this effort of theirs gave us the very information we and finally pinned a big crowd of them | needed. We spied a knot of fellows laden with leather pouches trying to But, in spite of the success of our | slink away in the confusion, and, first charge, we were very nearly over- knowing that at a critical moment no powered, for others kept flocking out | man troubles himself with burdens unof the barrack as the din waked them less they are of unusual value, we

made a small mouthful of us by sheer | loads, which we promptly gathered up,

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lows come, we broke down the door and fought our way in. There was a strong defense, but was carried at some cost-to the defenders-and we helped ourselves to another score of the leather bags and came out again. The fight was waxing furious outside, and re-enforcements

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

"The soldiers is got out!" bawled a voice. "It's them that's at us now!" "There's the commandant! 'Ware aword behind, Master Topp!" "Down the street to the right, lads,"

sung out Alec, "and make for the shore. The boats are coming to meet "Aye, an uncle's in 'em," added Job

Trehalion with a chuckle. "They Spanlards in the barrack's been too many

When they saw our object, the Spanleather bags-for the men held grimly on to their precious pearls-we were

at his heels, and before they quite not gratitude meant one more pair of knew what had happened we had tak: | hands against us or our countrymen formed a breastwork which shelteres us completely from their friends' fire. and so no further attack was made un-

There was some symptom of a final rush as, after heaving the precious pared to embark ourselves, but at the first forward movement we swore that oners if we were molested

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

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

Powder for our cannon and pearls for our purses-it was a good night's work.

CHAPTER XXV.

"Well, boatswain," gald Alan when the forestaysall sheet had been let fortably under way, "tell us how it was you let those Spaniards escape from

"Sneakin hounds!" growled Willie, who was not over well pleased with est seaman. You'd hardly left the building when the scoundrels came helter skelter at us, all fully armed, forcfight for dear life. Where they got the arms from the Lord only knows, an I hadn't time to find out. An while one party o' the skunks was keeping us going in front another was grubbing away at the wall in the rear, so that before we rightly knew what the trouble was they'd made a hole, an most o' them was through it an after you. An then, captain, when the birds was flown, what could 'a' four like us do? We'd cut down a baker's dozen o' them, but we wasn't able to run after an bring back the rest. So, judging that they'd make for the town, we filled up the touchhole o' that last culverin an then, slipping down to the boats, rowed off to the lower beach to meet von." wen you did so," replied Aisc, "for we have got off with none killed, which at one time I little thought we

wruld do." "None killed," I added, "but several scratched pretty deep and three badle the sconce which I fear will stop his fighting forever. His helmet was slit through as though it had been a paper fool's cap."

"Don't you bother about Garge, Master Topp," sang out Jan Pengony from the fore scuttle. "Garge's skull's like a bullock's. Now that the old man's pulled the broken sword blade out on't an sewed up the slit Garge is cursing away as amiable as ever he did."

"Is the old man surgeoning, then?" "Aye, an lacking a better we might have a worse. He's just chopped off Tinker Tom's leg at the knee joint an sewed up the stump as neat as can be. An Tom, he never uttered a groan nor now a clamoring to have his leg salted down to take home with him for a keepsake. I'm thinking the old man bain't no bad surgeon.

and so it proved, for with the exception of the loss of Tinker Tom's leg. every man of the crew was as sound ten days after the fight as he had been when the Scourge's powder room was empty. The taking of this store of powder and pearls at El Pueblo del Norte was in every way a lucky stroke, for, besides giving us the means for futhre battles, it put all hands in conceit with their captain and their craft. Moreover, it was something prosperous to look back upon during the profitless

time that followed. After clearing the reefs of the harbor highway at the back of the island lying behind the rocky shelter of Coche, which is separated from Margherita by a strait two lengues in width and darting out when a quarry appeared. Six times in six weeks we were engaged, but the prey was after Alec's heart, not mine. We grievously annoyed the subjects of his majesty of Spain, but all that we rifled from their pockets would not have melted down into a

The explanation is simple. Each craft we brought to and overhauled was westward bound, carrying a packed cargo of lank, lean dons from the old world to fill their pauper pockets from the wealth of the new. Quite one-half of each bark's sallow company was rotting with scurvy, a result of the long passage out; and as sick men who have no wealth but the ragged clothes on their backs to defend will not fight desperately for the fortunes they have yet to gain, none of these encounters cost one drop of English blood. Indeed five ships out of the six hove to at the first suve and surrendered Without further

Now, though I know that it goes against an English seaman's grain to resort to extreme measures in cold blood, still prudence is a jade that lards, led on by their commandant, highly mettled steed chivalry, and so

(To be Continued.)



work which before had seemed an easy task soon seemed like a heavy burden. I decided relief within a week, my appetite came back, the sleep. Within fourteen weeks I had completely mal, and new life animated my entire being. Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription health, by curing the local womanly disthe failure of the general health. A womanly nature. When the delicate womanly organism is attacked by disease; when there is irregularity or a disagreeable drain; when inflammation burns and ulcers gnaw the general health will reflect the progress of disease, in increasing weakness, nervousness, backache, headache, loss of appe-So sure of it is the World's Dispensary prietors of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, that they offer \$500 record for women

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