

A BEAUTIFUL PIRATE

By Guy Boothby.

And so the week went on, and the next after that, with hardly a break in the routine of work. Out of 100 cases treated 80 succumbed in the first eight days, 12 in the remaining six, while 15 more were added from the township during the same period.

And now I must say something about the care and attention bestowed on these patients by those who had volunteered for the arduous task of nursing. Indeed, I feel justified in saying that no better service could have been obtained in any London hospital. Fortunately a sincere bond of affection seemed to bind all these people together, and this, taken with the influence exercised by the wonderful woman at their head, made its power thoroughly felt in everything they did.

And here I should also like to put on record Alie's wonderful devotion to her people during that time of awful anxiety. Day in, day out, night and morning alike, accompanied by her dog, she was occupied about the different huts, helping and reproving, chiding and encouraging. Her presence was like a ray of sunlight which seemed to light the place long after she had left it. The convalescent derived new vigor from her touch, the dying were soothed by her voice. Never once throughout the whole of the time did she think of herself. The path of what she considered to be her duty lay before her, and the Beautiful White Devil, the notorious adventurer, the abductor of rich merchants, the terror of the China seas, stood it without murmur or complaint. It was a wonderful exhibition of womanly gentleness, forbearance and endurance. And when I saw her, tired and almost dispirited by the results of the struggle, and noted how she put all this aside, assumed a smiling face to speak words of comfort to some sufferer, and then remembered the accusations and stories to which I had listened in the Victoria hotel that first evening, I felt almost as mean and contemptible as it was possible for a man to be.

CHAPTER VI

A TRIP INTO THE COUNTRY.

Sixty-four days exactly after my taking charge of the health of the settlement the last patient was discharged from the hospital, cured. Out of 195 cases treated 133 had recovered. The rest lay in the little graveyard on the hillside to the eastward of the town. It had been a weary, harassing time from beginning to end, and the strain and responsibility had had a more severe effect upon me than I should have anticipated. Alie alone, of all the workers, seemed untouched. Her indomitable will would not permit her body to know such a thing as fatigue, and for this reason the last day of our work found her powers as keen and her energy as unabated as they had been on the first.

On the afternoon of the day following the discharge of my last patient she came into the surgery, and seating herself in my armchair looked about her with that interest my medical affairs always seemed to inspire in her.

"Dr. De Normanville," she began, clasping her little white hands together on the arm of the chair, "I have been watching you lately, and I have come to the conclusion that you are thoroughly tired out. There is but one cure for that—rest and complete change of air and scene."

"And pray what makes you suppose I am worn out?" I asked, wiping a pair of forceps that I had been using on a native boy five minutes before and putting them back into their case.

"The color of your face for one thing," she answered, "and the way you move about for another. Your appetite, I have also noticed, has been gradually falling off of late. No, it won't do. My friend, you have been so good to us that we should be worse than ungrateful if we allowed you to get ill. So, without consulting you, I have arranged a little holiday for you."

"That is very kind of you," I said. "And pray what is it to be?"

"I will tell you. You are an enthusiastic botanist and entomologist, are you not? Very well, then. This island abounds with unclassified flora and fauna. I will have an expedition fitted out today, and tomorrow morning we will leave the settlement and plunge into the interior. I expect a week's absence from worry will work a wonderful change in you. At any rate, we'll try it. What have you to say to my proposition?"

"I should like it above all things," I answered eagerly. And, indeed, apart from the scientific chances it would afford me, a trip anywhere in her company could not be anything else than delightful.

Having gained her point, she rose to go.

"I may consider it settled, I suppose?" she said. "At daybreak tomorrow morning we are to mount our ponies in the square down yonder and set off. You need not bother about rifles or

any impedimenta of that kind. I will see that you are well provided."

So saying, she withdrew, and I saw no more of her that day. The rest of the afternoon I spent in preparing my specimen boxes for the trip, and when I sought my couch at night it was to dream of birds and beetles of the most glorious coloring, size and variety.

True to our arrangement, daybreak next morning found me, booted and spurred, striding toward the village square. Early as I was at the rendezvous, Alie was there before me, mounted on a neat bay pony, and evidently awaiting my coming. She wished me "good morning" and then pointed to the group of pack horses standing at a little distance in charge of half a dozen men.

"We shall not want for provisions during our travels," she said, with a happy laugh, and as she did so she signed to one of her attendants to lead up a pony she had reserved for my use. "The cook and his staff," she continued, "have gone on ahead of us to prepare our breakfast, so now if you are ready we'll start."

The order to march was thereupon given, and we immediately set off up the mountain track.

When the first half dozen miles were overcome, the aspect of the country began to change. It became more open, and we continually emerged from timber on to highly grassed plains, where pig and deer of many kinds were to be seen feeding placidly. Toward 8 o'clock the trend of the country lay upward and continued so until we had mounted to a considerable elevation, when an extensive panorama was unfolded before us. The island must indeed have been a large one if it could be judged by the extensive views we had presented to us of it. Only on the settlement side could I see the sea, while on the other the forest rolled away as far as the eye could reach.

A little before sundown Alie informed me that we were close upon our destination. And surely enough, just as the orb of day disappeared behind the tree tops, we saw before us, on a small plateau, four or five large and exceedingly comfortable huts, which the men who had preceded us that morning had erected for our accommodation. They faced toward the east, and the view from the little terrace on which they stood was beautiful in the extreme. Across it and for a short distance be-



"How beautiful it all is!" said Alie, looking up at the twinkling stars.

low the land was open; then the undergrowth began again, gradually rising from small bushes to great trees, and afterward continuing in one unbroken sea of green away to where the faint outline of a mountain range peered up upon the southeastern horizon. It was a picture to see and remember forever.

Having dismounted from our ponies we prepared to make ourselves comfortable. The distribution of huts was as follows: Alie took that to the right, I had a large one on the left, while that in the center was set apart for our dining room and sitting room (if we wanted to be indoors, which was unlikely); the fourth was destined for the accommodation of the cook and from it already resounded the clatter of pots and pans.

Full of curiosity to see in what sort of comfort Alie traveled, I entered my own hut and was amazed at the completeness of the arrangements. A comfortable bedplace, with mosquito curtains, occupied one side, a square of matting covered the floor, a portable wash hand stand stood near the bed, while against the opposite wall, neatly arranged in a rack, were my guns and specimen cases. By the time I had washed off the stains of travel and exchanged my riding costume for a lounge suit the native gong had summoned us to dinner, and Alie and I, meeting on the terrace, entered the center hut together.

If I had been surprised at the completeness of the arrangements of my own hut how much more astonished was I now. Indeed had it not been for the walls, which were covered with some peculiar sort of tapestry, and the different ceiling, I should hardly have known that we were not in the bungalow at the settlement. The white cloth, the glittering glass and silver, the costly ornaments and the profusion of dishes were the same, and when the same impassive servant entered to wait upon us, clad in his usual white livery, my astonishment was complete. Alie was in

exceptionally good spirits, and for this reason the meal proceeded in a most delightful fashion.

When it was over, we drew our chairs outside into the gathering gloom and sat watching the fireflies dashing in and out amid the tangle of dark forest across the plateau. It was indeed a night to be remembered. Overhead the tropic stars shone in all their beauty; around us were the unfathomable depths of the forest; from the right sounded the tinkling music of a stream; while now and again out of the darkness would come the deep note of some forest animal or the melancholy hoot of an owl or other night bird.

"How beautiful it all is!" said Alie, looking up at the twinkling stars. Then as if to herself, "If only we could always be as peaceable as this, how much happier we should be!"

"Do you really think we should?" I answered. "Don't you think it is the wild unrest and turmoil of the world, to say nothing of that constant struggling, which make existence so sweet to us?"

"Ah, you speak of your own world!" she said sadly. "Think what my world is—continual plotting, endless striving, with always the one great dread of capture hanging over me. Oh, Dr. De Normanville, you little know the sort of life I lead!"

"Then why do you go on with it? If only I might—" I checked myself suddenly. Another moment and the fatal words would have passed my lips. But to see her thus and not to tell her of my love was almost more than I could bear. I kept a tight rein upon myself, however, and cramed the words back into my heart. She had paused and was looking away toward the dark forest.

"Why do I go on with it?" she answered, a few moments later. "Because I must. Because there is no one else to guide and care for them but me."

"But supposing you were caught? They would have to shift for themselves then."

"I shall never be taken alive—that is, except by treachery. No, Dr. De Normanville, come what may, I can never forsake them. My duty lies before me, and as I have endeavored to do it in the past so I must strive to do it in the future. But it is getting late, and we have traveled a long distance today. Don't you think we had better bid each other good night?"

As she spoke she rose, and I followed her example. Then she shook hands, wished me good night and disappeared into her own hut, her dog at her heels. When she had gone, I seated myself, lit another cigar and fell to work upon my thoughts. Away in the darkness beyond the leaping fires a Sambhur deer, probably disturbed by our lights, was barking to his mate, and in a tree near at hand a night bird hooted dolefully. The first sweetness of the evening had passed, and now an unutterable melancholy seemed to have laid its hand upon it.

When my cigar was finished, I passed into my hut, glanced at my rifles to see that they were ready to my hand in case of need, and having disrobed myself went to bed. Tired as I was, my slumbers were almost dreamless, and it seemed but a few minutes from the time I laid my head upon my pillow before my servant was waking me to the newborn day.

Immediately breakfast was over I took my specimen cases and a light rifle, and, accompanied by Alie and two of our native servants, dived into the forest, on collecting thoughts intent. But the profusion of subjects was so vast that it was difficult to know quite where to begin. At every turn some peculiar grass, some plant, some shrub would arrest my attention, while in the air butterflies, beetles and birds innumerable seemed to call upon me to catch and catalogue them without delay. Alie had quite recovered her good spirits by this time, and having once grasped the general idea followed her new hobby with the same impassioned ardor that was noticeable in everything she undertook. By midday our cases were full to bursting, so we returned to the camp to lunch. In the afternoon we continued our work, but this time without our native followers, who, when all was said and done, preferred chattering to working, and in more ways than one were in the way.

By the time the sun declined upon the mountain our boxes were once more full, and we turned our heads campward, following on our homeward route the course of the same stream we had pursued on our outward journey. It was warm work, and when about half our walk was done we stopped on a little rise to look about us.

Alie seated herself on a fallen tree, and I put down my boxes and took my place beside her. Throughout the afternoon she had been a little quiet, and I must own that my own spirits were none too lively. Enjoyable as our excursion had proved, it was nevertheless a fact that every day was bringing my stay in the island nearer to its close, and under the circumstances I could not help feeling that, my duty done, it behooved me to be moving on as soon as possible. And yet the thought of leaving this woman, into whose life I had flashed like a meteor and whom I had come so desperately to love, was agonizing to me.

Alie rolled a small stone into the foaming torrent below us and then turned to me.

"Dr. De Normanville," she began—

and it struck me that she hesitated a good deal over what she had to say—"when my agent visited you in Hongkong and induced you to come to our assistance, he promised that as soon as your work was completed you should be returned safe and sound to the place whence you started. Your work is completed, and now it only remains for you to say—well, to say when you wish to leave us."

This speech, following on top of what I had been thinking myself, put me in a strange position, and for a minute I did not know how to answer. Then a torrent of words and protestations rose upon my lips, but I pressed them back and to gain time for reflection asked a question.

"I hope that I have done my work to your satisfaction?"

"How can you ask such a thing?" she answered promptly. "You have worked for us as few other men would ever have done. I cannot"—here her voice trembled a little, and her beautiful eyes filled with tears—"I cannot ever thank you as I would wish to do."

Either her tear laden eyes or this expression of her gratitude must have deprived me of my self control, for when she had finished speaking my presence of mind completely deserted me, and without more ado I drew closer to her on the tree, and, taking her hand in mine, said, almost without thinking of my words:

"Alie, cannot you see that there can be no question of thanks between us? Cannot you see why I have worked so hard for you? Cannot you see that I would give my own existence to save for you even the life of the dog you loved? Have my actions not spoken for themselves?"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE NEW GEOGRAPHY.

Johnny Proves He Knows All About It and Wears a Papa.

"Now that we have these vast possessions in the antipodes, Johnny, I think—"

"Father, I'm astonished. Our antipodes are somewhere among the fishes southwest of Australia, which is a far cry from the Philippines."

"Well, I was just going to say that this hemp they grow in Manila—"

"It isn't hemp at all, father—travels under false pretenses. Manila hemp is a variety of the banana family."

"Dear me! Is that so? It's a good omelette all the same. Why, when I was out in the Sandwich Islands I—"

"Father, you're enough to make Lil-luokalani shudder. No educated person says Sandwich Islands now unless to make himself understood by those who don't know that 'the Hawaiian Islands' is the official and accepted name. Besides—"

"Well, I suppose you'll be asking me next to say 'Puerto Rico' just because the Spaniards do."

"Not at all. Porto Rico has been good English usage for several centuries. It's all right."

"Glad you've passed on the question. But if we go into Manila hemp growing in a territory 6,700 miles from our former limits we—"

"You mean 4,500 miles. You certainly haven't forgotten that the United States has long extended to the end of the Aleutian chain, and Attu is only about 4,500 miles from Manila."

"You're very kind. But speaking of Manila hemp, they say that in Borneo, the largest island in the world—"

"It was when you studied geography, father, but they've learned since that New Guinea is larger than Borneo, and Greenland is larger than New Guinea."

"Great world this! Well, I was talking with Brown about introducing Manila hemp into tropical America, and he said that on his plantation in San Salvador—"

"Why, there are no plantations in the city of San Salvador. If you mean the country of which San Salvador is the capital, you should say Salvador."

"Young man, your hat is getting too small for you. If you don't stop making my head ache with your erudition, I shall send you direct to Vladivostok."

"You don't mean direct. I should have to transship at Yokohama or Shanghai. I think—"

"Give us a rest, please. I want to read the paper."

Problem That Bothers Older Folk.

"If there are 383 important magazines in this country," said the teacher, "and every magazine is anxious to get a war article from every man who ever enlisted, in addition to a few from those who went to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines without enlisting, when are we likely to see the end of this war literature craze?"—Chicago Post.

Retort Courteous.

Mrs. Saddensole—When I'm dead, you will think of all the cruel things you've said to me.

Mr. Saddensole—And it will be just like you to go and die in order to give me a chance to think of them.—Boston Transcript.

A Last Resort.

"Lives have been altered and shaped by a single word."
"That's so. When Miss Rooks said 'No,' I knew at once I should have to go to work for a living."

AN INGERSOLL CASE.

How Mr. Francis Stewart Baffled a Relentless Enemy.

Stricken by Kidney Disease—He Had Treatment From the Most Skillful Doctors—All Failed to Help Him—Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him.

INGERSOLL, Jan. 16.—Some time ago Mr. Francis Stewart, one of the well-to-do tailors of this town, had the misfortune to fall and injure his kidneys severely.

Soon after the accident symptoms of Kidney Disease made their appearance, and Mr. Stewart at once placed himself under the care of a competent physician.

Time passed; the medical men were constant in their attendance and unremitting in their care. But no benefit resulted. On the contrary, Mr. Stewart's condition grew steadily worse. The symptoms became more and more pronounced, and the patient's sufferings were at last almost unbearable.

About this time he bought a box of Dodd's Kidney Pills, and began using them, taking no more of the doctor's medicines, which had proved so useless.

Mr. Stewart tells the result of his action in the following words: "I had taken only a few doses of Dodd's Kidney Pills when I began to feel better. My urine grew more natural in color, and became normal in quantity."

"I persevered in the use of Dodd's Kidney Pills, and to-day I am sound and well—have not an ache or a pain, though the doctors had utterly failed to relieve me."

This is a fair example of the wonderful cures that Dodd's Kidney Pills have been making in this district during the past few years.

It is an absolute fact that Kidney Disease of every type, from Bright's Disease, Diabetes and Rheumatism to Female Complaints, have been almost entirely banished from this section by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Dodd's Kidney Pills cost only fifty cents a box, \$2.50 for six boxes, can be got at all drug stores, or by sending the price to The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto.

From Little Plato Smith.

Boys has measles—an' men has politics. I'd rather take a bath than wear a new pair o' pants 't school.

Pa says laziness is a crime, but Ma builds 't kitchen fire.

Boys gets most o' their sickness 'fore school calls in 't mornin'.

When I want Pa t' say "yes" I got Ma t' say "no."

It's wicked t' work on Sundays; so folks jus' putter round an' do little jobs.

Ma played whist all one evenin' las' week, an' she don't know what trump is yet.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, etc.

A Peculiar Patent.

Queen Mary's gratitude took an odd form in the case of the Earl of Sussex. He was a valetudinarian, who had a fear of baring his head. He petitioned Queen Mary for leave to wear his cap in her presence. Her Majesty gave him leave to wear two caps if he pleased. His patent for this privilege is unique in royal annals.

"Know ye that we do give our beloved and trusty cousin and counselor Henry, Earl of Sussex, Viscount Fitzwalter and Lord of Egremund and Purcell, license and pardon to wear his cap and cap, or any two of them, at his pleasure, at well in our presence as in the presence of any other person or persons within this realm or any place in our dominions wheresoever during his life; and these, our letters, shall be sufficient warrant in his behalf."

Had Reason to be Proud.

Silkies—Ye gods, look at Briggs. Isn't he stuck up? What's the matter with him that he's grown so proud all of a sudden? Has he made a fortune or—
Bimley—No, his wife sent him down-town the other day to match some cloth for her, and he came within two shades of getting the right color.

They Drove Pimples Away.—A face covered with pimples is unsightly. It tells of internal irregularities which should long since have been corrected. The liver and the kidneys are not performing their functions in the healthy way they should, and these pimples are to let you know that the blood protests. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will drive them all away, and will leave the skin clear and clean. Try them, and there will be another witness to their excellence.

Mutual Relief.

Little girl visitor has been annoying elderly spinster until the latter loses patience.

"I wish you would go home," said she, sharply; "I'm tired of you."
Small Visitor—I wish you'd get married. I'm tired of you!
Family tableau!

King James VI. a Golfist.

Golf was a popular game in Scotland in 1467. By an edict of James VI., issued in 1471, the games of golf and football were prohibited in that country, yet James opposed his own edict by playing golf himself, and he was considered in those days a crack player.

Often Done.

"What is an investigation, Uncle Rodney?"
"Investigation! Why, it's hunting up a lot of blame and putting it on somebody else."

If your every-day duties are a burden, it is because you are not well. Miller's Compound Iron Pills will correct this condition.

A Club of One.

"How do you keep so young, Mrs. Light-head?"
"Well, I never worry about my age."

Health for the children. Miller's Worm Powders.