CAPTAIN KIDD WAS NO PIRATE SO LATEST PROOFS GO TO SHOW

Treasure Hunters of a Century Looking for Loot That Wasn't There.

OLD ROMANCE DIES AT LAST.

Condemned to death for piracy by a London court in 1701, Capt. William Kidd of New York said to the judge in his peculiar Scotch accent: "It is a very hard sentence. I have been sworn against by perjured witnesses." Nobody paid much attention to his words. He was led down the worn stone steps at Execution Dock, and according to the custom with pirates, hanged on a gallows between the marks of high and low tides. Then his body was covered with tar, bound about with chains, and suspended from a gibbet farther down the Thames as a warning to seamen, until the crows should pick the bones bare.

For 200 years the name of Captain Kidd was a synonym for piracy and buried treasure. Then one day Ralph D. Paine, an American, rummaging in the dusty files of the Public Record Office in London, discovered two French passes which had belonged to Captain Kidd, and which, if produced in court at his trial, would have cleared him of the charge of piracy. He had taken these passes from the two ships which he had captured in the Indian Ocean, and they were his proof that the ships were sailing under an enemy's flag, and were legitimate prey for a privateer. Who hid these papers when they meant life or death to Kidd? What was the motive for doing this man to death on a charge of which he was innocent?

Had Private Means.

Since Paine's discovery, books have been written to answer these questions and to clear the name of Captain Kidd. Only last year Robert W. Chambers covered the subject in "The Man They Hanged." More recently the latest knowledge upon it has been summarized in an article by Marquis James in The American Legion Monthly under the title, "The Sailor Who Sailed Once Too Often." For William Kidd had retired from the sea when he married Sarah Oort, the richest widow in New York in 1691, and his social standing was indicated by the title "Gent." after his name in the official record of his marriage. He was the son of a Scottish country parson, had been well educated for a country boy, and had many friends among the high officials both of colonial New York and of England under King William III. Mr. James says further:

William Kidd laid by his pay, and his share of prizes and awards, and invested in New York real estate. While he was courting Sarah Oort the New York Legislature voted him $150 for chasing pirates from the local waters. When he married Sarah, he seemed fixed for life financially. So at thirty-seven the thrifty Scotch captain retired from the sea as a regular thing, and devoted most of his time to his property in New York, and that which he had acquired by marriage.

The Kidds lived in a three-storey brick house at the corner of Pearl and Hanover streets. The Turkey carpet on the parlor floor was the first Oriental rug in New York, they say. The elite of the colony attended the social gatherings of Captain Kidd's house, walked on the Turkey carpet, and admired the rare articles he had brought home on his voyages.

Visited London.

Occasionally the captain spiced the tranquillity of his retirement with a voyage, we are told. He was in London in the winter of 1694. There he met a fellow New Yorker, Robert Livingston, who had amassed a fortune connected somehow mysteriously with salt water. Livingston had a scheme for making money, which he laid before the Captain, and it came out that he was acting for men high in power, who were backing the enterprise for their own profit. Mr. James gives us their august names.

There was the Earl of Bellomont, who was to be the next Governor of New York—there was the king himself. These gentlemen solicited the services of Captain Kidd for a special expedition to capture pirates.

Kidd was not born yesterday. He knew that when such gentlemen solicited, they commanded. In the whole British kingdom it would have been hard to find a more formidable list of names with which to overwhelm the demurrers of a simple sea captain.

His Last Trip Arranged.

The bargain was made. The pirates were to be brought home for trial, but his Majesty did not say what his well-beloved captain was to do with the merchandises, money, etc. That point, however, was covered in other articles in which, for certain reasons, the Kings name did not appear. One might expect that this loot would be returned to its rightful owners, but that was not the plan. "Serve God in the best manner you can," wrote my Lord of Bellomont, in Kidd's supplementary instructions, and "sail directly to Boston, in New England, there to deliver unto me the whole of what Prizes, Treasure, & Merchandize you shall have taken." Then one-fourth of the cargo would be divided among Kidd's crew. This was to be the only wages the seamen would receive. The remaining three-fourths of the trophies would be split among Bellomont, Somers, Romney, Russel, Shrewsbury, Livingston and Kidd—the larger shares going to Livingston and Kidd.

The King a Partner.

That is what the written agreement said, except for a secret clause stipulating that the King was to receive a 10 per cent. cut of all shares. If the booty should total £100,000, Kidd was to receive as a bonus the ship he sailed in. If the venture were unsuccessful, Bellomont was to be refunded what he had contributed to the initial outlay. The others took their chances. But the noble earl was in all things a shining disciple of Safety First.

To minimize the danger of failure, Captain Kidd was provided with a second commission—which was his undoing through no fault of his—authorizing him to seize any ship, whether pirate or not, which flew the flag or sailed under the protection of France. This was by way of reminding France that England was at war with her, though it was a queer sort of war. The narrative proceeds:

The "Adventure Galley."

It cost $6,000 to buy the new ship Adventure Galley and fit her out. Kidd was obliged to put in some of his own money to do this. The Adventure Galley was of 287 tons burden, which was a fairly large ship. She carried thirty guns.

With all these documents signed, sealed and delivered, William Kidd began to scare up a crew, when Robert Livingston reappeared to add some private instructions which it would have been unt.tful to put in writing, even in secret clauses. He told Kidd not to worry about failure, and rather than let a handsome prize slip through his hands, not to scruple over legal niceties, but to "act without regard to my Commission."

Was to "Produce the Goods."

In other words, Kidd was not to come back empty-handed. He was expected to capture pirate ships, but if no pirate ships sufficiently laden with treasure were available, he was to return with *something*. This is Kidd's own statement of the conversation, made when his life was at stake, but there is more reason for believing it than there is for disbelieving it. The official morality of the time condoned such things. It was a common practice for pirate hunters to go out for pirates and come back with *something*, split with a few officials and go their way.

With a short-handed crew Kidd sailed from London in April of 1696. On the voyage to New York he captured a little French fishing vessel and brought it into port, a lawful prize. Then he started filling up the ship's company for the grand cruise.

A Bad Crew.

It was hard to get the right sort of men on a no-prize no-pay basis, to which he was bound by instructions. He wound up by taking any men he could get, and when the bars were let down, there were plenty of applicants. "Many flockt to him from all parts," wrote Benjamin Fletcher, the current Governor of New York, "men of desperate fortune and necessitous, in the expectation of getting vast treasure."

On September 6, 1696, Captain Kidd sailed away with a crew of 154—"as finished a collection of cutthroats as ever tramped a deck." Out past the Madeira Islands and down the coast of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope the pirate hunter sailed, stopping every ship on the way, searching its papers, but finding them always regular. By the time the Adventure Galley reached Madagascar, 147 days out from New York, with no booty whatever, relates Mr. James, the crew were growing restless and mutinous. After they crossed the Indian Ocean to the coast of Hindustan, a small vessel carrying English papers was overhauled, boarded and rifled. Apparently this was the only incident that amounted to piracy in Captain Kidd's career, and he said it was the act of his mutinous men, who took matters into their own hands. The pickings, at any rate, were slim, and what is more important, when Kidd was brought to trial "with the cards deliberately stacked against him," this offense was not mentioned.

Hunting Poor.

Fifteen months passed and no prize, and no money for the penniless, growling crew. Kidd's situation became critical. His ship was leaking, his provisions low, his men treacherous and surly, and his own life in danger.

Then luck turned. In the month of Novermber, 1697, the Adventure Galley fell in with the well-stocked Indian trader Rouparelle, which was sailing under a French pass of safe-conduct, and therefore seized. And on the first of Febraury following Captain Kidd made the haul which seemed to redeem the voyage.

A Real Haul.

The Galley was nosing about in the Indian Ocean under French colors when a sail of enormous spread was cried. Kidd ran up. Seeing the fleur-de-lys, the big ship made no effort to get away, but announced herself as the Quedah Merchant from Surat, property of that fabled oriental potentate, the Great Mogul. Kidd invited her master to come on board and submit his papers. When the Quedah Merchant people stepped on the deck of the Galley, the English flag was hoisted. . . . It was a fabulous prize—the Great Mogul's treasure ship. Ingots of gold and bars of silver. Bags of golddust. Chests of coin. Boxes of diamonds, rubies, emeralds. Bales of silk, damask, and such products of India. The value can never be told, but an inventory of the leftovers which Captain Kidd managed to bring to America assumes the sweeping dimensions of a maharajah's dream.

Turns Home.

Captain Kidd turned his helm and stood for home, but that was 12,000 miles away, and the Adventure Galley would never make it. She was leaking so badly that the eight-man shifts at the pumps were changed every two hours. Her hull was bound round with cable for fear the bottom would drop out. With his two prize vessels in company, Kidd put in at St. Mary's Madagascar, to refit for the home trip.

The Galley reached St. Marys on April 1, 1698. At anchor in the harbor was the frigate Mocca, Capt. Robert Culliford. The Mocca was a pirate ship, and Culliford was a pirate captain.

Mutiny.

Ninetyseven of Kidd's men rebelled. This was nearly all he had. They stole the Rouparele, ransacked and sunk her, then joined by some of Culliford's followers they raided the disabled Galley and the Quedah Merchant, in which Kidd proposed to go home. Kidd managed to hold the ships, but the mutineers carried off nearly everything portable, including all the treasure they could find, and the cannon. They marched inland to where Kidd had stored some of the treasure at a planter's house and took that. On the fifteenth of June, Culliford sailed away, leaving Kidd utterly stranded. His four-hundred-ton ship had been picked clean, and he had only thirteen men. The Adventure Galley had fallen to pieces. It took him five months in that out-of-the-way port to get his ship equipped and enough men to man her for the homeward voyage.

A Fatal Delay.

This delay, says Mr. James, was fatal to Kidd. Unsettling rumors had begun to sift back to civilization. The powerful East India Company was out for the scalp of this man who had been sailing in waters where they had a monopoly. Because of Kidd's influentiol backers, the company had to be careful, but the seizure of the two ships under French passes gave it the desired opportunity. London had recently launched a grand crusade against buccaneers. This crusade was not going well, we are told, and Kidd was a convenient victim for a Government anxious ot show results. So toward the close of 1698 an order was sent out to arrest "that obnoxious pirate Kidd." When the ill-fated captain set out on his long voyage back to New York, he knew nothing of the coil that was tightening around him. By the time he reached the Leeward Islands, southeast of Cuba, his ship and crew were in a desperate condition, relates Mr. James. He appealed to the authorities for relief only to learn that he was a fugitive from justice, and, finally:

Dodging the Law.

Giving a British war-ship the slip, he purchased a sloop called the St. Anthony, and left the Quedah Merchant concealed in a cove near the coast of Hispaniola, now San Domingo, under guard of a trusted friend and the remnant of the crew. The big ship had £30,000 to £100,000 of treasure aboard, which the guards lost little time in appropriating when Kidd was out of sight. Taking £15,000 in the sloop, Kidd sailed northward, hoping his troubles were over.

Before reaching New York, he sent ahead and engaged a lawyer—James Emmot, a leading member of the colonial bar and a vestryman of Trinity Church. In June of 1699 the St. Anthony slipped into Long Island Sound and Mr. Emmot went out in a boat and met his client at Oyster Pond Bay not to be confused with the better-known Oyster Bay), at the eastern end of Lond Island. The lawyer heard Kidd's story and said he would see the Governor and arrange to have the charges against Kidd quashed.

Governor Double Crosses Kidd.

The Governor was my Lord of Bellomount. At this moment the King was preoccupied with his antipiracy crusade. The Governor did not have to think twice to surmise that it would be a feather in his cap to bag the "obnoxious" Kidd. In substantiation of the legality of the two seizures for which Kidd had been outlawed, Mr. Emmot placed in the Governor's hands the two French passes which the Captain had taken from those vessels.

That was Kidd's undoing. Later, after being illegally transported to London for trial, and languishing in Newgate Jail for more than a year, his case was called, and we read on:

Kidd was as good as dead when he went to trial.

An Unfair Trial.

Four judges presided. Four lawyers represented the prosecution. Kidd asked for a lawyer, but the petition was denied. In open court he requested the return of his papers which he had surrendered before his arrest in America. He was insolently asked what he wanted with them. Kidd said the French passes would acquit him of the charge of piracy. Whereupon the prisoner was informed that he was not to be tried for piracy, but for murder, upon which the passes had no bearing.

The death of a mutinous sailor he had struck with a bucket, to restore discipline, was dragged up against him. We are told that the jury was practically instructed to bring in a verdict of murder, and Kidd was sentenced to death. Then—

The next day he was tried for piracy. The same prejudiced judges, unscrupulous prosecutors, perjuring witnesses and a brow-beaten jury were on hand. With the rope already about his neck, Kidd made a valiant fight to clear his name. He asked for his papers that he might exhibit the French passes. He was told they could not be found. The prosecutor who addressed the jury admitted that if Kidd could show French passes he should not be convicted. But, he exclaimed, Kidd had no passes. He scoffed at the Captain's pretension that he had possessed such passes until he had trustingly surrendered them to the authorities. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and William Kidd was again sentenced to death.—Literary Digest.

Good luck is a lazy man's estimate of a worker's success.

An air attack on the cotton pests of the Soudan is the plan of Sir Sefton Brancker, vice-air-marshal and director of civil aviation.

ELECTRICAL PROSPECTING TO BE DONE BY BIG INTERESTS

Government Approves of New Scientific Method of Investigating Northern Areas.

PLANS ALREADY MADE.

Electrical, or "geophysical" methods of searching out ore bodies as scientific aids to mining are to be put to the test this year by the Ontario Government.

With the approval of the Ministry, the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Company will conduct an electrcal survey of the whole Kamiskotia area, northwest of Timmins, in which an apparently valuable discovery of copper-gold was made last year, and of which a large group of claims have been taken over by the company mentioned.

This particular area is heavily overburdened with sand and muskeg, and rock outcrops are few in number. It is the company's intention to investigate the entire area covered by their claims, but, feeling that digging pits in sand or muskeg would be a useless expense, they recently approached the Department of Mines with the request that they be permitted to perform the assessment work by making an electrical survey.

Diamond Drilling After

The department believed it to be in the public interest, and especially in the interest of the mining industry, to have a thorough and practical test made of these electric or "geophysical" methods, and an Order-in-Council accordingly has been passed to give the company the opportunity to supply the test on a large scale. The company is to do the work during the season of 1927 and 1928. One stipulation of the arrangement is that where indications of ore are located by the survey the company will proceed to develop the same by diamond drilling.

Electrical Prospecting Devices Used

The electrical prospecting devices have also proved their worth under certain conditions, and are now coming into more general use. The scientific definition of electrical prospecting would probably be "the application of electricity to known geophysical laws," but this conveys little to the average man. Briefly, the theory of electrical prospecting is based upon the fact that ordinary rocks, barren of ore, offer high resistance to the passage of an electrical current, and that if two poles are set in the ground some distance apart and a current passed between them the current will flow in straight lines.

Most ore bodies, however, where metallic minerals are present in any uantity, are good conductors, so that if there is an ore body in the vicinity of the current passing between the poles the current will be diverted to follow the line of least resistance through the ore body, and instead of flowing in straight ines the current will follow curved lines. The direction and the intensity of the current can be measured and a good idea of a possible ore body obtained. Electrical prospecting has not yet been developed to the point where it can determine whether the indicated ore body is of value, but it can determine the location of mineralized areas, which can be proved by diamond drilling or by trenching and test-pitting.

Day of Engineer Prospectors

The old-time prospector is becoming more of a claims staker than anything else, and the field is gradually being usurped by the young, active and intelligent prospector and by the scientifically trained men. There is a growing field for the engineer and the geologist, and a number of exploration companies are now sending this type of men into the new fields, not only to do the prospecting, but also to do the staking. Universities see the modern trend of affairs, and will train young engineers especially for this class of work.

The day is not far distant when companies will send parties into remote districts by aeroplane, to make a reconnaisance geological survey covering large areas. The more favorable sections will be delimited and then intensively prospected. In this work electrical prospecting will probably play an important part, as the men and apparatus can easily be transported by aeroplane. Prospectors also see this new development, and a number of them are already arranging to go into remote districts next spring, secure in the knowledge that distance is no longer the hadicap it once was, and that if discoveries of sufficient importance are made transportation will be provided.

PLAN OF MEMORIAL PLEASES COOLIDGE

President of U.S. Expresses Appreciation of Canada's Tribute.

Ottawa — President Coolidge, through his Secretary of State, has forwarded here an expression of appreciation of the plan recently approved by parliament for the erection in Arlington cemetery at Washington of a memorial to Americans who served with the Canadian forces.

For this urpose $100,000 was voted and the expenditure has now been formally authorized by the Government. The Imperial War Graves Commission has also given its consent to a memorial, which will take the form of a cross of sacrifice.

The Law and Cupid.

London.—A summons against a motorist was adjourned at Lambeth Court so as not to interupt his honeymoon.

A friend is a fellow who will listen to your troubles instead of talking about his own.

PATRIOTISM PUT ON WORLD BASIS

Sir Esme Howard Favors English-American Entente to Insure Peace.

San Francisco, Calif. — Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador to the United States, speaking in San Francisco recently, said that it was difficult not to feel that the first step toward world peace must be a real entente between English-speaking nations and that the acceptance of the axiom that conflict between the nations that form the British Empire and the United States is an incredible absurdity would do more to establish a reign of peace on earth than anything that could be proposed.

"Everyone does lip service to the reign of peace—but I fear there are many who make mental reservations," Sir Esme said. "As between the United States and the British Empire, however, there should be no reservations. However much we may differ, and I don't doubt we may have fairly serious differences in the future as in the past, our mental attitude should be always that they must be settled peaceably either by diplomatic negotiation or by arbitration. No other solution would be worthy of us.

"We at any rate, Americans and Britishers, should let the world know that we are too proud to fight with each other. It would be altogether beneath us. I feel deeply that once we have established a real sense of confidence in each other half the battle for the outlawing of war will have been won."

While defending the right of communities to local patriotisms Sir Esme said: "The sort fo patriotism that cannot look beyond its own frontiers will end by not being able to look beyond its own house door.

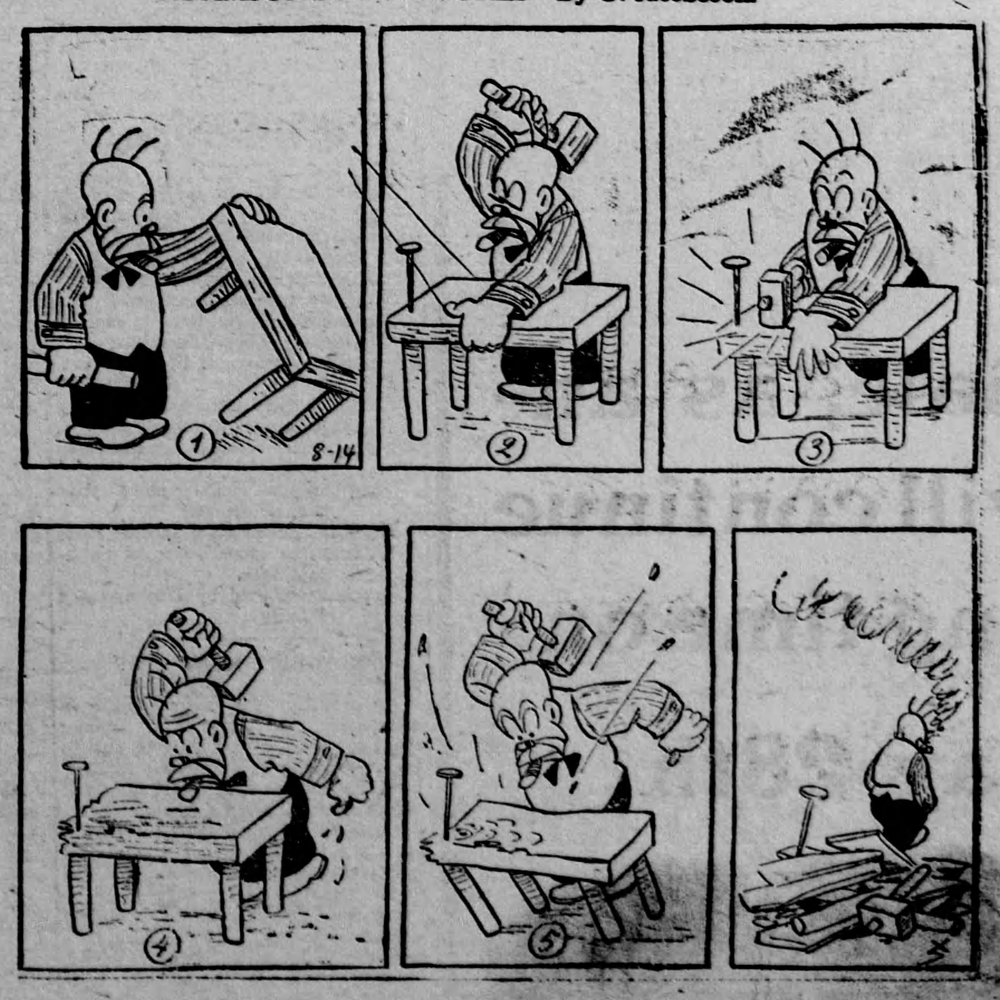
"Just as family patriotism gave way to tribal patriotism and tribal patriotism to national patriotism, I believe that we shall, if this world's affairs are to be carried on in peace, ultimately develop a world patriotism."

Then and Now

Kingston Whig-Standard (Lib.): The death-like silence and stupor of the Sabbath of the past is gone and probably gone forever. But the deathly clamor of our twentieth century Sabbath is equally impossible.

A Skin Game

Vancouver Province (Ind.): A man over in Yakima is engaged in the hazardous occupation of catching rattle snakes for their skins. In two days he bagged 170 of the cenomous reptiles. It is a great life if you do not get rattled.

It is a lot more satisfying to make a success in a small way than it is to make a failure in a big way.

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.