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CAPTAIN BLOOD

by Rafael Sabatini

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BEGIN HERE TODAY.

Peter Blood is wrongly convicted of treason against the English king. He and Jeremy Pitt, among others, become the slaves of Colonel Bishop, a Barbados planter and uncle of Arabella, between whom and Peter Blood an interesting friendship springs up. A Spanish ship conquers the island but is captured through the strategy of Blood, who heads a party of slaves. Don Diego, commander of the vessel, who is given freedom of the ship, attempts to betray Captain Blood and his fellows, but fails. Blood sails to Tortuga, headquarters of buccaneers, where he joins with Levasseur, another adventurer.

The governor of Tortuga tries to break up an attachment between his daughter, Mademoiselle D'Ogeron, and Levasseur. He sends his daughter on a sea voyage, guarded by her brother. Levasseur follows and kidnaps Mademoiselle and her brother, and Captain Blood engages Levasseur in a duel to save them.

GO ON WITH THE STORY.

"What the devil does it mean, the Spanish Admiral asked.

None answered him, all being as puzzled as he was himself.

After a little while, Esteban, who kept his eyes on the water, plucked at his uncle's sleeve. "There they go!" he cried, and pointed.

And there, indeed, went the piraguas on their way back to the ships. But now it was observed that they were empty, save for the men who rowed them. Their armed cargo had been left ashore.

Back to the ships they pulled, to return again presently with a fresh load of armed men, which similarly they conveyed to Palomas. And at last one of the Spanish officers ventured an explanation:

"They are going to attach us by land—to attempt to storm the fort."

"Of course." The Admiral smiled. "I had guessed it. Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

But by evening the Admiral's equanimity was not quite so perfect. By then the piraguas had made a half-dozen journeys with their loads of men, and they had landed also—as Don Miguel had clearly observed through his telescope—at least a dozen guns.

His countenance no longer smiled; it was a little wrathful.

"Who was the fool who told me that they number but three hundred men in all? They have put at least twice that number ashore already."

Amazed as he was, his amazement would have been deeper had he been told the truth: that there was not a single buccaneer or a single gun ashore on Palomas. The deception had been complete. Don Miguel could not guess that the men he had beheld in those piraguas were always the same; that on the journeys to the shore they sat and stood upright in full view; and that on the journeys back to the ships they lay invisible at the bottom of the boats, which were thus made to appear empty.

In the last hours of fading daylight, the Spaniards did precisely what Captain Blood so confidently counted that they would do—precisely what they must do to meet the attack, preparations for which had been so thoroughly simulated. They set themselves to labor like the damned at those ponderous guns emplaced to command the narrow passage out to sea.

Thus, when night fell they stood to their guns.

And whilst they waited thus, under cover of the darkness and as the tide began to ebb, Captain Blood's fleet weighed anchor quietly; and, as once before, with no more canvas spread than that which their sprits could carry, so as to give them steering way—and even these having been painted black—the four vessels, without a light showing, groped their way by soundings to the channel which led to that narrow passage out to sea.

The Elizabeth and the Infanta, leading side by side, were almost abreast of the fort before their shadowy bulks and the soft gurgle of water at their prows were detected by the Spaniards, whose attention until that moment had been all on the other side. The Elizabeth emptied her larboard guns into the fort as she was swept past on the swift ebb.

Some slight damage was sustained by Blood's fleet. But the time the Spaniards had resolved their confusion into some order of dangerous offence, that fleet was through the narrows and standing out to sea.

Thus was Don Miguel de Espinosa left to chew the bitter cud of a lost opportunity.

Off the coast of Oruba, at the mouth of the Gulf of Venezuela, Captain

Under the cover of the darkness Captain Blood's fleet weighed anchor quietly.

Blood's fleet came upon the belated Santo Nino, speeding under full sail to re-enforce Don Miguel at Maracaybo.

At first the Spaniard had conceived that she was meeting the victorious fleet of Don Miguel, returning from the destruction of the pirates. When at comparatively close quarters the pennon of St. George soared to the Arabella's masthead to disillusion her, the Santo Nino chose the better part of valor, and struck her flag.

Captain Blood ordered her crew to take to the boats, and land themselves at Oruba or wherever else they pleased.

Dismissing the Captain, who went over the side of the Santo Nino, Captain Blood proceeded to investigate the value of this further prize. When her hatches were removed, a human cargo was disclosed in her hold.

"Slaves," said Wolverstone, and persisted in that belief, cursing Spanish deviltry until Cahusac crawled up out of the dark bowels of the ship, and stood blinking in the sunlight.

And those that crawled out after him—the remnants of his crew—cursed him horribly for the pusilanimity which had brought them into the ignominy of owing their deliverance to those whom they had deserted as lost beyond hope.

Their sloop had encountered and had been sunk three days ago by the Santo Nino.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE MILAGROSA.

The affair a Maracaybo is to be considered as Captain Blood's buccaneering masterpiece.

The fame which he had enjoyed before his, great as it already was, is dwarfed into insignificance by the fame that followed.

In Tortuga, during the months he spent there refitting the three ships he had captured from the fleet that had gone out to destroy him, he found himself almost an object of worship in the eyes of the wild Brethren of the Coast. When nex he sailed away it was with a fleet of fine ships in which went something over a thousand men. The three captured Spanish vessels he had renamed with a certain scholarly humor the Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.

In Europe the news of this fleet, following upon the news of the Spanish Admiral's defeat at Maracaybo, produced something of a sensation.

On the 15th September of the year 1688—a memorable year in the annals of England—three ships were afloat upon the Caribbean, which in their coming conjunctions were to work out the fortunes of several persons.

The rst of these was Captain Blood's flagship the Arabella, which had been separated from the buccaneer fleet in a hurricane of the Lesser Antilles.

The second ship was the great Spanish galleon, the Milagrosa, which, accompanied by the smaller frigate Hidalga, lurked off the Caymites. Aboard the Milagrosa sailed the vindictive Don Miguel.

The third and last of these ships with which we are at present concerned was an English man-of-war, which was at anchor in the French port of St. Nicholas. She was on her way from Plymouth to Jamaica, and carried on board a very distinguished passenger in the person of Lord Julian Wade, who came charged with a mission of some consequence and delicacy.

My Lord Sunderland, the Secretary of State, had appointed a strong man to the deputy-governorship of Jamaica. This strong man was that Colonel Bishop who for some years now had been the most influential planter in Barbados.

The Royal Mary—the vessel bearing that ingenious, tolerably accomplished, mildly dissolute, entirely elegant envoy made a good passage to St. Nicholas, her last port of call before Jamaica. It was understood that as a preliminary Lord Julian should report himself to the Deputy-Governor at Port Royal, whence at need he might have himself conveyed to Tortuga. Now it happened that the Deputy-Governor's niece had come to St. Nicholas some months earlier on a visit to some relatives, and so that she might escape the insufferable heat of Jamaica in that season. The time for her return being now at hand, a passage was sought for her aboard the Royal Mary, and in view of her uncle's rank and position promptly accorded.

Lord Julian hailed her advent with satisfaction.

Miss Bishop was a young woman and a lady. On his side, with his title and position he bore about him the atmosphere of the great world that was little more than a name to her. It is not therefore wonderful that they should have been attracted to each other before the Royal Mary was warped out of St. Nicholas.

"I wonder now," he said, as they were sauntering on the poop, "if you ever saw this fellow Blood, who was at one time on your uncle's plantations as a slave."

"I saw him often. I knew him very well."

"And what manner of man did you find him?"

"In those days I esteemed him for an unfortunate gentleman."

"You were acquainted with his story?"

"He told it me. That is why I esteemed him—for the calm fortitude with which he bore adversity." His lordship laughed a little. "He has grown rich, I hear. His future father-in-law, M. d'Ogeron, has seen to that."

"His future father-in-law?" said she, and stared at him round-eyed, with parted lips. Then added: "M. d'Ogeron? The Governor of Tortuga?"

"The same. You see the fellow's well protected. And as for the girl, I'm told she's a wild piece, fit mate for such a man as Blood. He killed a man to win her."

"He killed a man for her, do you say?" There was horror now in her voice.

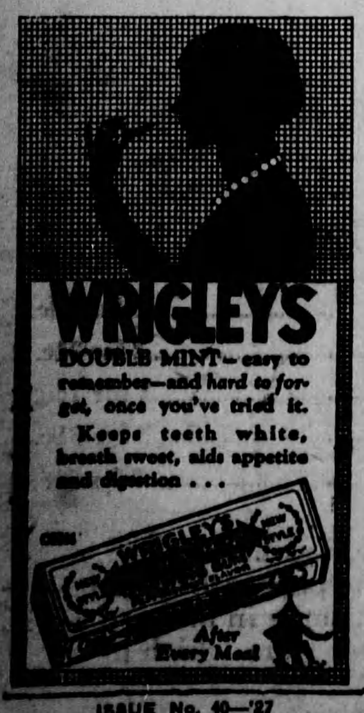
"Yes—a French buccaneer named Levasseur. He was he girl's lover and Blood's associate on a venture. Blood coveted the girl, and killed Levasseur to win her."

"Who told you?"

"A man who sailed with them, a Frenchman named Cahusac, whom I found in a waterside tavern in St. Nicholas."

She smiled a little crooked smile. "Such a man is best forgotten."

(To be continued.)



ISSUE No. 40—'27

Canada is Greatest of Wheat Countries

Victoria—Canada's importance now and the greater importance it would assume as a wheat growing country, was dealt with by G. H. Barr, K.C., Regina, before the Pacific Foreign Trade Council recently. He pointed with pride to Saskatchewan's production of 35 per cent. of the wheat growth of Canada.

Canada's potential wheat supply was three and a quarter times greater than she was now producing, he said, and in the last six years she had led the world as a wheat exporting country. The Canadian wheat growers would eventually be able to supply the bread requirements of 217,000,000 people in addition to Canada's needs.

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Baden-Powell Named as Nobel Prize Winner

Stockholm—Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts movement, has been formally nominated as a candidate for the next Nobel Peace Prize. It is believed here that the world wide Scout organization backs the nomination. Earlier in the summer Sir Robert visited Stockholm and took part in the international jamboree attended by more than 3,000 Scouts from many different countries.

The value of each of the five annual Nobel prizes will this year be $32,478, according to the most recent calculation based on the total earnings of the estate of the late Alfred Nobel. who founded the prizes 25 years ago. While the peace prize is paid in Stockholm, the winner is selected, according to Nobel's will by a Norwegian committee, appointed by the Storting.

When Bunny Becomes Fur He's Most Anything But

Washington—Rabbit skins are being sold under a variety of name, from "Baltic lion" to "Baltic tiger," according to a report by the Biological Survey made public by the Department of Agriculture. With the prefiex of "Baltic," in fact, bunny masquerades as everything from a leopard, a black, brown, red and white fox, to a seal. All these transformations are made from rabbit furs variously dyed and treated.

Other manifestations of the rabbit, without any qualifying adjective of locality, present the little animal as "beaverette," "chinchillette," "cony," "electric beaver," "mole," and "seal," "erminette," "meskin," "moline," "minkony," "sealette," "sealine," "squirrelette," "squirreline," and "visonette." The rabbit also masquerades as "French chinchilla," and "Arctic seal," "Australian seal," and "Bay seal."

Dealer—"That, sir, is a rare old revolver. It was carried by Christopher Columbus." Customer—"What! Why, revolvers were not invented in Columbus's time." Dealer—"I know. That's what makes this one so rare."

Should Parents Be Re-Educated?

Are Present Day Parents Alive to Their Responsibilities or Are They Assuming Duties Unprepared

Sir Robert Falconer, Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, Hon. L. A. David, His Grace Archbishop McNeil, Judge Emily Murphy, Prof. Peter Sandiford, Dr. J. L. Huges, Judge H. S. Mott, Judge Margaret Patterson, Judge J. F. McKinley, Judge Helen McGill, on "Parent Education."

Few Canadians ever face more important responsibilities than the duties involved in parenthood. Most of us would not think of playing golf, laying a sidewalk or operating a second-hand truck without some careful preparative tuition, but we quite blithely assume control over the destinies of members of the next generation with whatever knowledge we secure by guess or good luck.

By this not meant purely material matters. In recent years, this aspect of the question has been receiving a great deal of concentrated attention. Mothers are advised regarding diets. Most women make a rather detailed study of the subject of feeding and the primary principles of health and there are numerous agencies through which accurate information can be secured.

The problem of supervising mental development and facing the simple psychological problems which must be met are the ones which constitute a real difficulty. Obviously, solution of it involves the education of the parent. That is something which has never before been attempted. There is little more than a series of occasional experiments on which to base any plan. The question of how the work should be done has not yet been answered nor the question of who is to do it. What particular knowledge is most necessary and which should be selected from the host of subjects which might be dealt with, is still another matter for decision.

Preliminary study of the broad topic of parent education is probably further advanced, in some regards, in Canada, than it is almost anywhere else in the world. For the past two years, for instance, the Canadian Social Hygiene Council has been making exhaustive researches.

Recently a group of leading Canadians contributed their personal opinions on the matter to a symposium which the Canadian Social Hygient Council prepared. The complete list of idea son the subject forms a unique document since the contributors include judges, educationists, medical men, government officials and officials of leading health and welfare organizations.

It is possible here, of course, to make only a rapid-fire review of their comments. Each one answered six questions.

Sir Robert Falconer, President of the University of Toronto, brought up an interesting point in his general discussion of the question as a whole when he inquired who was to do the educating.

"I should like to have been educated myself," he notes, "but I never saw the person whom I would be quite willing to accept as my teacher."

He concludes that the knowledge will have to be imparted by an extraordinary type of person.

First of all, came a discussion of the present-day parent as compared with the parent of previous generations. Judge Emily Murphy (Janey Canuck) of Edmonton, declared that as she honestly did not know, it was safer to say that the present-day father and mother compared more favorably.

His Grace, Archbishop Neil McNeil, pointed out that there is to-day a weakened sense of parental responsibility which he aseribes, in large measure, to the fact that there are so many agencies willing to assume the work of caring for and guiding children that parents cast their responsibilities on these institutions and organizations.

Prof. Peter Sandiford of the Ontario College of Education says that parents do not know how to meet their problems. In the past it was easy. Children were simply repressed.

Judge H. S. Mott, of the Toronto Juvenile Court, comments that we are all living in an age of "indigested opportunities." New fields of enjoyment have been opened up and the word "home" does not mean the four walls that it did in times gone by. Judge J. F. McKinley, of Ottawa, says that parents have always been neglectful but that the children of to-day are facing a great many more temptations than those of earlier generations.

Dr. James L. Hughes holds that most of the training is now better than it was. Until recently all child training was negative—and, therefore, nil.

Dr. Margaret Patterson, Judge of the Toronto Women's Court, repeats the contention of other writers when she states that the average parents of to-day are helpless because of lack of training.

"Present-day parents," she says, "are the product of a stern but unscientific discipline by their parents. They have been given no proper training to prepare them for the duties of 'parenthood.' "

As to whether or not parents can be blamed for juvenile delinquency—the second question discussed—there are a variety of opinions. Hon. Dr. Roberts, of St. John, N.B., voices what is the general view, when he says: "To a very marked extent, parents' time is being taken up with the demands made upon them by society and with amusement, resulting in a lack of good home influence."

Judge Helen McGill, of Vancouver, B.C., notes that the discussion of parental neglect goes back into antiquity. Adam and Eve, in fact, were obviously not perfect parents. The question of responsibility for delinquency dates back to the first generation in the world's history.

Prof. Sandiford draws attention to the fact that the blame, to a great extent, is due to changing social conditions. Judge McKinley lists as the prime causes of delinquency: Disease, ignorance and parent neglect.

Whether or not the parent can mould the child's character as desired was another point considered. To quote Hon. Dr. Roberts again, he emprasizes the necessity of frank and free education first. Archbishop McNeil discusses the need of creating an attitude of respect in the child's mind from the earliest infancy. Prof. Sandiford adds that it would be well, i nthis connection, to remember that there are children's rights as well as the rights of parents. Dr. James L. Huge objects to the word "mould" and would substitute "develop" instead.

On one questinon there is complete unanimity. Every writer who has contributed his or her opinions regfisters a belief in the principle of parent education. The problem of what it should include, however, brings varying opinions and is, chiefly, too involved a one to deal with a few sentences.

On the exact definition of the words "Parent education," too, depends the age at which various members of this group think the training should start. Without exception, they agree that it should commence before marriage. Some suggest at 12 years of age. Others propose that it commence in the secondary schools. The concensus of opinion is that if training for parenthood could be started now among the present problems facing the parents of to-day would automatically be eliminated.

Part of Professor Sandiford's statements on the matter are worthy of special note. "Seventy years ago," he states, "Spencer pointed out that we trained people as if they were never to be the parents of children. The whole subject has been taboo, simply because sex was taboo."

Hon. L. A. David, Provincial Secretary of Quebec, feels that the time at which such training should start depends almost entirely on the mentality of the individual child.

Hon. Mr. David, too, is expressing the opinions of practically all the writers when, in touching on the final question under discussion, he says that health should undoubtedly be one of the major topics in any parent education scheme. A majority of the group, however, qualify their statement by noting that the sponsors of any such movement, while putting sufficient stress on the teaching of health, should make certain that the physical is not allowed to overshadow the mental, moral and spiritual aspects of things.

Summing it all up, the views which the Canadian Social Hygiene Council has secured in these teatises by leading Canadians all tend to the feeling that the development of some efficient system of training adults and adolescents for parenthood is an immediate need, but a problem, moreover, which requires the most expert consideration. Judge Margaret Patterson, for example, declares: "Children cannot be brought up in the spare time. It is a full-time job.."

These few excerpts from the complete set of comments, while necessarily scanty, give a comparatively comprehensive survey of the results of this parent education survey. It should be distinctly noted, however, that, in preparing it, the Canadian Social Hygiene Council specifies that the comments are in no way intended as a scientific treatise. Before continuing further with parent education research, the Council felt that the opinion of the Canadians whose word carries weight would be of incalculable aid in evolving a plan of action.

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