

## The Unarmed Pirate

How She Plundered Was a Mystery.

By F. A. MITCHEL.

Lieutenant Wickersham, in command of the United States gunboat *Zac Taylor*, cruising in the Malay archipelago, received a wireless order from the admiral to look out for a pirate vessel that had been doing a lot of damage to shipping in the South China sea. No well defined location for the pirate was given, since it was not known. Probably the order was sent to every United States vessel cruising in that region.

The second day after receipt of the order the watch on the *Taylor* reported to the officer of the deck that a ship was to be seen on the starboard quarter. She was changing her course very frequently. She did not look at all like a pirate, but on account of her mysterious actions the watch thought it his duty to report her.

The commander of the *Taylor* ordered the ship's course changed toward the vessel in question. No sooner had this been done than the other exhibited a clean pair of heels, evidently in flight. When the gunboat came close enough to the fugitive to discern what she was like Wickersham was surprised to see a very ordinary looking vessel, as unlike a pirate as possible. There were no ports for guns or any other evidence of a capacity for fighting. About dusk the stranger ran close into shore. She was still too far for those on the gunboat to see what was doing on board of her, but since the anchor chains could be heard rattling in the hawse pipes Wickersham did not give himself any uneasiness as to her getting away from him.

By the time the *Taylor* had come near the vessel night had fallen, and since the latter craft showed no light the gunboat felt obliged to stand off. However, Wickersham, suspecting that she might escape him under cover of the darkness, sent a boat in command of Ensign Throckmorton to reconnoiter. The party was gone an hour. When it returned Throckmorton made a very singular report.

He had found the vessel deserted. On her were all sorts of plunder, showing that she was undoubtedly a pirate. There was no cargo unless about a thousand barrels of oil might be considered such, but it seemed rather that this might have been for fuel. And yet the furnace was constructed for coal, of which there was a scant supply.

Wickersham was puzzled. Never had he heard of a pirate unarmed, unarmed, before. Nevertheless there was abundant evidence that the vessel was the one he had been ordered to look out for. The fact that she had fled when he gave chase was alone sufficient to condemn her. As for her crew, they had doubtless gone ashore under cover of darkness.

It did not seem that there was any need to take further action till morning. The anchor of the pirate being on the bottom, there being no crew aboard to raise it and the shore to which they must have gone being eight or ten miles distant, the lieutenant decided to let the matter rest for the night and the next day go aboard the craft himself and make a personal examination. So he turned in, leaving the executive officer in charge.

When the first faint light appeared in the east the commander was awakened to be informed that the pirate had disappeared. Jumping out of his bunk, he put on a dressing gown and slippers and hurried on deck. The vessel certainly was not where she had been the night before, but the day had broken, and the man in the crow's nest reported her or a vessel very like her on the horizon. Wickersham, after bringing a glass to bear on her, pronounced her the pirate and gave orders to get up the anchor and make chase immediately.

The pirate was standing eastward along the tenth parallel of latitude, evidently making for the open sea. The gunboat managed to keep her in sight and make a small gain. During the day the lieutenant made inquiries among the crew to learn if any one had heard any sound during the night. One man said that he fancied he had heard an anchor chain being carefully slipped through a hawse pipe. He had called the attention of the officer of the deck to it, but since the officer had heard nothing himself he paid no attention to the man's report. Nevertheless Wickersham made up his mind that the pirate had slipped her anchor and sailed away without it.

The mystery worked on the men, some of whom were ignorant and superstitious, and knots were constantly gathering to discuss the strange craft, the opinion being occasionally expressed that the ship was a phantom. But this did not reach the ears of the commander, who would have taken means to quash it.

During the day a wireless message was flashed by the admiral asking if the *Taylor* had seen anything of the pirate. Wickersham asked for information as to the vessel that he was ordered to capture. The answer was that the admiral had no description of her. It had been reported that several vessels due at Chinese ports had not come in. The weather had been fine; therefore there was no suspicion that they had been wrecked by storm. It

had been reported that one Dixon, an Englishman, who was known to be a pirate, had bought a vessel at Canton, and it was supposed that he had fitted her up for piratical purposes. It looked as if he had captured the missing vessels and sunk them with all on board. This information did not relieve Wickersham's perplexity. If the vessel he was chasing was the one Dixon had purchased, how had he been able to capture ships, plunder them and sink them without any armament? Nevertheless, that this had been done was evident from the valuables found on the deserted unarmed ship which was now fleeing before the *Taylor*.

Toward the close of the second day of the chase the island of Formosa was sighted, and Wickersham began to fear that his prey would escape him by putting into some indentation or inlet along the Formosan coast. The commander of the fugitive vessel ran to within a few miles of shore, but did not put in, evidently waiting for dark in order that his pursuer might not be able to see him when he left the open water. However, reaching a convenient point for hiding, he ran into it while there was still sufficient light for Wickersham to see him.

The fact of his doing so set the lieutenant thinking. Might she not have paused in her flight, when she could have kept on, for a purpose? The fact that so many vessels had disappeared suggested that the pirate had some newfangled device for wrecking them. Might she not come out during the night and practice it on the *Taylor*? As soon as it was dark, taking a position off where the pirate had put in, Wickersham dropped his anchor and ordered every light on the ship put out. He would not even permit a lamp to be left burning, though covered. He resolved to remain awake during the night, ready for any emergency. However, about midnight, becoming drowsy, he went to sleep in a hammock, having given orders to be called should anything unusual occur. About 2 o'clock he was awakened and told that voices had been heard near the gunboat. Springing up, he went on deck and listened. His hearing was very acute, and he was sure that he heard a sound of oars which had been imperfectly muffled. He ordered a gun to be loaded on each of the four quarters, ready to be fired. Some of his subordinates wondered what he expected to shoot at, while the more superstitious of the crew began to fear that there was something supernatural about it.

But the lieutenant ordered every man to keep perfectly silent and remained on watch himself. When the first ray of light came he descried a boat pulling directly toward the *Taylor*. It was a mile away, and a cable's length behind it the water seemed disturbed, as though some obstacle was moving through it. Then suddenly the lieutenant rushed to the gun that pointed toward the coming boat and stood with the lanyard in his hand, peering into the breaking darkness. Others on the deck were able to descry the moving boat, but not the object disturbing the water behind it.

Nevertheless in a few minutes all could see something that caused a cold chill to run down their spines. It was the periscope of a submarine. From it every eye was turned to their commander, who was carefully sighting the piece near which he stood. Calling to his next in command to come to him, without taking his eye off the periscope, he resigned the lanyard to him, with orders to pull it when he gave the order. When the periscope came within a hundred yards of the *Taylor* it slowed down and began to settle in the water.

"Fire!"

There was an explosion, and the periscope careened, showing evidence of being wrecked, then disappeared. In a few minutes the surface of the water was covered by oil. Wickersham gave a sigh of relief, which was re-echoed by every man on the *Taylor*.

The men in the boat turned and were pulling away lustily when a well aimed shot from another gun sent her to the bottom, leaving her crew, some dead, some wounded and some unhurt, floating on the water.

"Man a boat!" cried Wickersham. A boat was soon pulling to the men struggling in the water. They were picked up and brought on to the *Taylor*. One of them was Dixon. This was his story:

"He had been using the vessel he had bought to carry plunder which was secured by means of a submarine kept with him. He would put a torpedo into a vessel, then while she was sinking board her and secure what valuables he could find. His boarding party was well armed, but seldom needed to use their weapons. After gathering the plunder he would leave the vessel and her crew to go down together, taking pains that no person lived to tell the tale. Believing that the *Taylor* would eventually get him, Dixon had resolved to torpedo her. Unfortunately for him, the night was dark, and he was unable to find her till daylight revealed him to his intended prey.

Wickersham reported the facts to the admiral, who directed him to hang the few pirates he had captured. The order was obeyed while the *Taylor* was making for the plunder ship, which was overhauled. The men, supposing that the *Taylor* would surely be torpedoed, took little care and did not see the gunboat until she was well on them. Then they tried to escape in boats, but were all captured and served the same punishment as the others.

The admiral's order to hang the pirates without trial enabled him to hush the matter up, which course he deemed advisable, and, although reported to Washington, the matter never got into the newspapers.

## Deerfield News Items

A white Christmas and a merry one. The first party of the week was for the Cradle Roll, Beginners and Primary Department of the Presbyterian-Bible School in the Community House, Monday from 6:00 to 8:30 p. m. A brief program by the little tots, with games and refreshments, and a dance around the Christmas tree constituted the program. The Junior Department of the Bible School had a party in the Community House from 7:00 to 9:30 o'clock Tuesday evening. This vigorous branch played the lively games which children of this age enjoy. Refreshments were served and presents distributed. All departments of the Bible School participated in the "Giving Christmas" and food, clothing and toys were sent to Olivet Institute, and the offering to Foreign Missions. The Intermediate and Senior Departments gave "Bethlehem" a Christmas pageant, Wednesday evening, in the church Auditorium. Considering that the participants in the pageant had their books but nine days, with but three rehearsals, and that the dress rehearsal was the only one at which all the members of the cast were present, the pageant was wonderfully well rendered. Much credit is given Miss Emilie Knaak for her ability in staging the production. The costumes of the Holy Land worn by the young people added much to the effectiveness of the dramatization. The same pageant was given by the Shermerville Hope Union church Thursday evening and a number from Deerfield attended it.

Friday morning the Grammar School pupils gave a short program beginning with a quartette of little folks, Jean Reay, Helen Reichel, Jack and William Johnston, who sang "Hail Old Father Christmas" while the room was darkened and the Christmas tree illuminated. There were recitations and songs by the Primary children, and a dramatization of Dickens' Christmas carol by fourth grade pupils, concluding with a Wassail song by the four upper grades, and a jolly dance around the Christmas tree which occupied the center of the Assembly Hall.

The classes of the Community House have been in a large member interfered with by the preparations for Christmas. Beginning January first the men will have the use of the building from eight to nine o'clock Tuesday and Thursday evenings and from nine to ten o'clock Saturday evenings. Friday evenings at seven o'clock all the girls of all sections will meet for an hour with Mrs. Roy Hutchison for a domestic science lesson.

The Misses Kress entertained at a seven o'clock dinner party Christmas evening to honor their brother, Mr. Earl Kress of Voltaire, N. D. Covers were laid for eight. The idea of Christmas was carried out in the table decorations which had for its center piece a small Christmas tree illuminated with colored electric lights. Following the dinner the guests enjoyed five hundred.

The New Year's service at the St. Paul's church will begin at ten a. m. followed by the annual business meeting of the congregation, at which all the members are earnestly requested to attend. Next Sunday Rev. Lusder will preach in English. The members of the St. Paul's Ladies' Aid will meet Thursday, January sixth, at the residence of Mrs. Frank Jacobs.

The Christmas entertainment of the United Evangelical church was held Thursday evening with the usual songs, recitations, dialogues and distribution of candy.

Principal Lowell of the Shermerville School and Mrs. Lowell, who occupy the apartment above Dr. Goldring's family, entertained the teachers of the Shermerville School at a dinner Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Lowell will spend the holidays with Mrs. Lowell's mother in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dickinson and family, Mr. Malcolm Dickinson, Mrs. Clara Lowell, Miss Mildred Lowell, all of Jefferson, were the guests of Mrs. George Pettis, Christmas.

The Presbyterian Bible School birthday offering will be sent to Robert's College and the Syrian Protestant College, both Turkish institutions.

Mrs. Norman Porter of Wadsworth, who was struck by an automobile in Chicago, Friday and killed, when she was returning to her home with her arms full of Christmas packages, was formerly a resident of Deerfield.

The Lake County Farmers' Institute will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Deerfield Grammar School, Saturday, January fifteenth.

Mr. Wm. Eggert, Miss Lillian Eggert, and Mr. Christ Bent of Chicago spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horenberger.

If you haven't taken advantage of Our Special Lighting Offer we urge you to do so now, while the nights are long and the evening are spent indoors. Reading by Gas Light does not tire the eyes.

We will pipe your house complete at our special low rate and install FREE

One 3 - light fixture for parlor  
One 3-light fixture for living room  
One 2-light fixture for dining room

Ask for our representative to call with details of our deferred payment plan

## North Shore Gas Company

Phone 194

North Sheridan Road

# PHEASANT

BRAND

## Loganberry Juice

The pure juice of the fruit with sugar  
A Beverage that satisfies  
A Tonic that braces

IDEAL

For Sherbets, Punches, Sauces--HOT or COLD  
An all year round and HOLIDAY DRINK

For Sale By  
GEORGE F. BOCK, Highland Park  
GEORGE TUCKER, Ravinia

Miss Florence Ender and Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Ender of Chicago, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horenberger.

Mr. Louis Rommel of South Chicago, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Rommel.

Miss Florence Ender and Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Ender of Chicago, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ender Christmas.

Miss Elizabeth Clark of Irving Park and Mr. Earle Smith of Smithville, N. J., will spend the holiday season at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Whiting.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Haskins of Wilmette and Miss Isabell Biederstadt of Highland Park, were the guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Biederstadt Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horenberger had as their guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Snyder and family of Winnetka.

The Misses Irene Kent and Lela Glych are spending the holiday season at their home in Wauconda and Miss Christine McMahan is spending her vacation at her home in Waukegan.

Mr. Ruddle Knaak, of Chicago, spent Christmas with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Knaak.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Selig of Chicago, were the guests at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Selig.

The Misses Jennie and Laura Karch were the guests at the home of their sister, Mrs. Frank Seaman of Cross Plains, Wisconsin, last week.

Mrs. Geo. McDonald is on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wolff spent Christmas with Mrs. Wolff's sister, Mrs. M. Hess of Rogers Park.

A fire of unknown origin occurred at the home of Mr. W. H. Steffis on Osterman Avenue Monday afternoon. Several sofa pillows and a beautiful Davenport were completely destroyed.

Mrs. Anderson and family were the guests of Mrs. W. Wright of Chicago Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gunckel were the guests of Mr. Gunckel's parents of Galesburg last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Haunschild had as their guests last week Mr. and Mrs. J. Bernard and family of Libertyville and Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Haunschild of Chicago.

Miss Winifred Supple of Springfield is spending the holiday season with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Supple at Suppledale Farm.

Miss Margaret Vedder is visiting at the home of Mr. F. Christensen of Theodore, Ala.

New Year's Day being a Holy Day, there will be services in the Holy Cross church Saturday morning at nine o'clock.

Mrs. Frank Hempstead entertained informally Monday evening to honor her guest, Mrs. Edward Hennessey of Virginia.

## CRUSHED THE CRITIC.

An Anecdote of Verdi and a Bother-some Parisian Journalist.

The first production of Verdi's opera "Otello" took place at Milan, and all the prominent musical critics of Europe congregated in the Cathedral City in honor of the occasion. Among them was a Parisian journalist of wide reputation and admitted authority in the musical world. His first care on his arrival in Milan was to seek out Verdi and ask to be allowed to be present at one of the final rehearsals.

The composer received the critic with extreme politeness, but replied that he could not possibly grant his request, as he had decided that the rehearsals were to be absolutely private, and he could not make an exception in the favor of any one journalist, however distinguished.

The Paris critic, far from pained at this answer, protested that in these circumstances his account of the opera might not be all he should like it to be. "You see," he explained to the composer, who affected not quite to understand, "I shall have to telegraph my article the same evening. It will necessarily be hastily written, and the impression in Paris the next day may suffer in consequence."

But Verdi was more than equal to the occasion. "My dear sir," he made answer, "I do not write for the next day." The critic bowed himself out.

## His Master Stroke.

"George Ferguson," said his wife, looking with crushing scorn at the gaudy rug he had bought at a special sale, "I wonder if ever in your life you knew a bargain when you saw it!"

The case was critical. Mr. Ferguson saw that something bold and decisive must be done, and his mind worked quickly. "Why, yes, Laura," he said. "When I wanted a wife I picked out the nicest, sweetest little woman in the whole world, and I got the best bargain any man ever got. There, there, pet!"—Chicago Tribune.

Wm. Grand, English, will take full charge of dinner parties or assist at receptions' halls, etc. Best references. Tel. 721-W

Dr. R. A. Hamilton Dr. Earl D. Fritch  
DENTISTS  
Suite 4, 5 and 6, State Bank Bldg.  
Telephone 678 HIGHLAND PARK, ILL.

Telephone 808  
J. P. STEFFEN  
Fresh Butter, Eggs and Poultry  
331 McDaniels Avenue  
HIGHLAND PARK, ILL.

J. Smith  
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in  
Iron Rags 1c per lb.  
Metal Rubber Bottles Paper, etc.  
The Highest Cash Prices  
Automobile Tires, Metals & Rubbers A SPECIALTY  
Drop me a postal card or telephone me and I will call for goods  
60 North First St. Highland Park Telephone 410

etings  
S  
at efforts  
th by this  
luring the  
ason have  
nderful re-  
d in the  
patrons,  
score the  
oliday  
SS  
tory.  
ost sincerely  
to the many  
o make this  
wishes for a  
Happy New  
s for better  
& Co.  
s Buicks  
ONS INC.  
Bread as Ours  
ever baked and we can  
if you'll let us. The big  
fresh every day shows  
lar it is, even with women  
erly did their own baking,  
f or so of it and you'll  
uselessness of bothering  
e baking any longer.  
ys Home Bakery  
W. Central Ave.  
ds at  
Dealer  
welry Store  
AYE  
No. 6  
VE CHICAGO