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CHAPTER XXVII.

this time, Senor Captain Ireland."

me, when Alec sternly called for si- poop and, hailing us, swore he'd fight sorely wounded that they died there lence for fear that our voices should the ship while two planks of her held on the cabin floor. Scarce a one of us give the alarm. And so I held my together. tongue, and the old man subsided into

Save for the creaking of the gear and Cassamoro. the gentle splash of the water against the bends we crept as quietly as a craft full of specters. But the noises insepwhich, they say, a Spaniard is specially | guel del Cassamoro in the flesh!" presently the noise of great confusion came to us over the water. On board the Spaniard terror and tremulous preparation were every- hoped you were a ghost long ago. Too Scourge's deck below.

OF CANADA

lungs. You escape an at-

all its terrible suffering

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A 25c. bottle will cure

an ordinary cough; hard-

er coughs will need a 50c.

size; the dollar bottle is

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ing to grade.



"Ah, ha! It's a blissfully grewsome could plump a shot into the bull every ground against the galleon's square sickening ache-not one who was not time I see ahead for the galleon yon- time he clapped his lintstock to the stern.

soldiers and servants, passengers and down by the run about their ears. Fet- ened weapons where there was no hand. cooks, marines and officers. There ters were never put to finer use. should be nearly 600 pairs of ears A cheer went up as we saw the gal- many a fee through the open portholes conceit it would be to shred off those round top, mainyard cut through in the for not until two-thirds of the cabin's crossed by a fresher seam, and John stay and plant a colony there. string of dried figs as a present to her bights, full head to wind, lying an un- Spaniards suffer themselves to be drivmost gracious majesty! What say you, manageable hulk on the water.

smothered gurglings.

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brass cannon grinned through them lucky round shot entering in at an open finish my task unmolested I'll sweep the Spaniards." and gleamed evilly in the moonlight, port had hit the six sweeps as they lay your crowded waist with a hurricane "Asking pardon," replied Job, screw A swarm of battle lanterns flew aloft lashed on the deck and had broken ev- of patareroe balls, and that the surviv. ing up his face with such a grin that and perched like fireflies in the rigging. ery one of them into two. And so, with ors may not want employment to keep the wound across it began to trickle An attempt was made to get the gal- the decks becoming more of a shambles them out of mischief I'll fire your gal. afresh, "but one o' them Spaniards that h leen under way so that she might an every minute, we stood our ground and leon's hold before I leave her. There's we left behind has got off. And if one. swer her helm and thus be easier to fought the guns like furies, and though a keg of spirits under the table that maybe all." organized mob, each trying to be use than two to one we hoped by serving "And if I permit you to carry off Where did you hear of him?" fight. But her people were a mere dis- our pieces were outnumbered by more will help her to burn." sheets and braces, some merely hurried many of his, through the greater elevaabout bawling orders and directions to tion of his guns, flew harmlessly over a harsh laugh of impotent rage. whoever would listen, and some loaded the little Scourge. Had it been other - my lawful prize, I say, taken from ordnance and small arms with frantic wise we could never have hoped to my country's enemy," went on Alec I, shrugging my shoulders. "But are w charges were rammed home, were fir- While we were still a cable's length noyance to my men, I, on my part, "Sure as I am o' you, Master Topp o'

Our stock at this haps have disturbed the fishes, but

Id. The mermen, or Neptune, or the bland not show the color of his own land." harge of our heels, swept the two vest had passed away and the grim fever

us able to dent either mast or rigging. us set foot in their stronghold without es or faint from loss of blood. Our joined our galleon. and gildings blackened, her pinions And so, flattening in our sheets once a tussle and did what they could with captain lay pale and helpless in his "Then," said I cheerily, "our course ed all the time to be strangely moved, plucked, her fabric dismantled, and her more, we made after her close hauled fireballs and grenadoes, cold shot and bunk, brought to death's very door by is clear. We'll run to the old harbor to though from what cause we could not

room to swing them and thrusting the foot of the other. en out into the waist.

But it was no time to groan or lick cordial, and these, being sent on their opening. but had his red gash to show. The cheer died on our lips. The armored Spaniard was Don Miguel del our wounds. The two doors under the patareroes were thrust through the "Hello!" cried Alec, somewhat taken loopholes to command the waist, and arable from the working of a vessel or back at this mexpected meeting. "By the hatch of the treasure room was else the smell of danger in the air, all the wickedness in Spain, Don Mi- cleared of bodies and thrown open. drowsy sentinels to their duty, and robber. You've overshot your mark dozen of us stood reads by the swivel spise, and so he considered his confi-"Perhaps so," said Alec unconcerned- to hand up the treasure and lower it ly. "But pardon my surprise, senor. I through the windows on to the at the battle havoc round me, "we can't

long gun was dismantled and our bow- nienced annoying the little craft whose sprit snapped off short just outside the bulwarks were grinding against his Topp, an winged birds has to lie quiet reply to him raised many a smile from sender. ship far below. They hurled down ev. for awhile afore they tries to fly the weaker ones and many a loud guf. Panting and scorched, we gathered. raged in grim, red earnest. With the came to hand, and finally they dropped "There should be abler heads than hallon's grin we had always with us.

the light breeze almost to a dead calm, and hailed the poop above. grin conquered.

so we had perforce to stay where we | "Don Miguel, ahoy!" The tall Spaniard appeared above, I figure sprang on to the of danger, as we had already rowed of danger, as we had already rowed annoying my people you shall have lie in."

The rest of the night dragged itself. When the last grave had been dug and wearily through, and the sun rose upon the lie in." her up alongside a prize in a calm, but something else to think about. I swear lie in." where. The portholes opened, and now, as fortune would have it, an un- to you that if you do not permit me to "But the Spaniards, Job! You forget by

Bow chaser, stern chaser and from the enemy's stern a strange thing faithfully promise to do you and yours or o' uncle, or o' Captain Ireland, or With us receive special at-

ing but reliable time-pieces, which we can honestly guarwhich we can hone which we can All our movements Scourge drew on under perfect com- alongside and, getting his fingers into officers and underlings had had all the pent's temple." then, getting before the wind again, though the fight raged around us we choosing, like wise men, the lesser of pled him into the sea for cumbering pled him into the sea for cumbering offered, endured ten men's agony.

"Could we get them?" inquired Alectic may be could be sea for cumbering offered, endured ten men's agony. Watches, from \$7 up, accord- then, getting before the wind again, though the fight raged around us we choosing. like wise men, the lesser of pled him in While they were still lying helplessly head to wind he went about once more had sending the starthand head to sending the starthand head loss and signified the sending the starthand head loss and signified the sending the starthand head loss and loss that they agreed to the agreement that they agreed to the agreed to the agreement that they agreed the they agreed to the agreement that they agreed the they agreed into her poop windows as he shot past, life, while doing two men's work, and promised, he said, not to molest us furnorthward and engaged at until now had never seen a chance of ther, and they looked to us to keep a

escape. Further, he had an offer to like faith with them. With a ringing the or two and he'd jump overboard again and make it gold chests, but none the less we kept fast to a ringbolt on the don's stern, the swivel gun trained on the crowd in up the galleon's waist, for he is a besotvindow. | ted fool who trusts a penny's worth to

They dared not break faith with us. barvest without further loss of life.

"An if you try the big waves had a dreary account taking. It was Don Miguel, for I, for, one, felt sure was fixed for the embarking. 'ng over every man o' us clear that the Scourge could no longer that we had by no means seen the last But at the last moment an unexpect But you do what's as good hold her own in these seas of the new of that yellow fanged grin of rage ed difficulty arose. The old man rethe island it would be madness to at had been alling of late, and it seem

into this queer craft of your'n pany 13 had been killed outright, four gerly questioned him, "they're got off. ithout a blessed don o' 'em being had burts that they would die under, sure enough. I've seed a many o' them. an, what's more, through them I've drew streams of sweat from the rest of heerd all about your doings on the is us.

"How did they get away?" "Sighted a trading snow the day aft- never play us false, but would defend When the excitement of the battle er you left, signaled her wi' a smoke our treasure even with magic arts it last a couple of cleverly thrown grap one stood on our decks in whose body ples caught hold and our bulwark one stood on our decks in whose body tell of, an got took off. The show set him behind, ailing as he was. B some o' 'em took ship to Cartagena, except our captain. Fully an hour did Sleek sides backed through and priming there was not a gumer among Her crew had no intention of letting stiff from angry, rainbow colored bruis-

scruppers will bleed till the sea around and, ranging up to windward, tried an naked steel to stop us. But with a a bullet wound under the shoulder, recruit and refit." And with the deci- tell. But he failed. And when at last ladder of boarding axes driven into which he had borne undressed through sion I felt more hopeful and light heart- the Scourge set sail and the old man Captain Ireland! You're like to choke By one of fate's revenges these Span their timbers we scrambled up and half the long fight. The back of the surfeit before this world is a night and for on the old man's advice we cram. Hemmed in by the packed masses black with powder, and he had more When we rounded the bluffs at the we had rounded the spit and run cut behind, the front rank had the alter- ribs stove in than the pain would let harbor's mouth and the foreshore in of sight. Then with a heavy sigh he

"Think of it! Scarce a shot will leave very shackles and wrist cuffs that had native of fight or fall. They fought him count. And of the others one ailyour guns that does not dull its speed chained some of us to a galley's bank long and desperately, and then they blow of an av had lost the fingers of who was with anxious gaze that those of us it as an amount to stand ou durk was strange affair, and perhaps on human flesh. That galleon has not and, taking the quoins from the gun fell, for they expected no quarter and blow of an ax had lost the fingers of who were hale enough to stand on deck we should have taken it as an omen of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the hand another by the crack of a surface of the sur spare housing for a fly. She's cram- carriages, let fly a cloud of inquisitori- asked none. We on our side fought as his hand, another by the crack of a or to lean against vest or bulwark ill luck. Though I am myself singularly has been against vest or bulwark in luck. Though I am myself singularly has been against vest or bulwark in luck. Though I am myself singularly has been against vest or bulwark in luck. med with men close as peas in a pod, all engines that brought everything furiously as they, stabbing with short-The active watch on deck consisted of two persons. There was Job Tre- enough spot to dwell in, and some of to come, and yet I cannot think that

We had remained in melancholy si- ing tropical vegetation had almost hid-I was about to make a sharp answer, swer to Alec's summons to surrender a his friend George and three others killfor the old dotard's savagery sickened tall armored figure sprang on to the ed outright, and two more were so handful of biscuit and a lordly dram of hung had fallen shantwise across the ing the Erst watch of the glass wh

errand, revived me wonderfully. So. No. there was nothing to fear. The after adjusting the bloody bandages island had returned the possession the alarm was given and was soon niture piled up against them, loaded round my leg and instep, I told Job of the pigs and the gulls and the passing buckets with the rest. But the that he and I must lay our heads to parrakeets, its original owners. gether and consider where to steer to. Job was all chuckles and grins in a above was for the most seriously water seemed only to irritate the blaz The pieces of eight we found snugly called into council by any one save the had to turn the cave itself into our hos- pale, lambent flame, blue and trans-"As you'll soon find to your cost, sea stowed in oak chests, and while half a tues of the flower scented breeze of the greedy, shooting tongues of yellow fir "One thing is sure," said I, looking

uplands, but there was no help for it. Ah, it was a time to make the greedi-"No, Master Topp," chuckled Job, The angel of death was hovering round

forestay carried away we could do a barrel of powder, which on bursting nothing but lie head to wind parallel scorched several of our lads so severely our antagonist until a fresh headsail that they cried to us in the galleon's sadly battered just now, so you and l was rigged. Had it been blowing fresh cabin that the deck was too hot to hold must do our best to decide a course in spite of all that the old man's skill we pushed off.

on Cave island, Master Topp. It were some their wounds conquered, and shattered hull had sunk.

galleon's gold began. CHAPTER XXIX. "Twelve men on their legs." said the boatswain, waving his book toward. man an Tinker Tom, which is both then?

"Seed him an felt him, Master Topp than every one would have got off the it encinctured untarnished by a single ful, but entirely without order or discipline, and so crowded as they were they succeeded best in getting into

broadside pieces were ared as fast as happened. A sailor ran on to the poop, the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them, but as leaped overboard and swam as though the gunners could load them. keep off the scurvy." swain gruffly. "Might as well try to of despair.

alougside and, getting his ingers into outcers and underlings had an one of the main chains, scrambled on board. fighting they wanted. Though each of the main chains, scrambled on board. mand and in perfect silence.

Though vastly changed by the hardWhen we were almost aboard of the When we w are some on one years trial. When we were almost aboard of the Our prices range, for Hamp
Our prices enemy, Alec put down his heim and, ships of warfare and captivity, we recommended the frightened trembling o' the don's Bristol river."

Bristol river." heavy raking fire as each gun bore and the Bristol Merchant's crew, and hot not only that, but life as well. And arm I should have gone down sure

Ill lying helplessly tabout once more board broadside the mountain ravine, leading a dog's that they agreed to molest us fur.

He had, so he said, been setting in the galleon.

"Fetch him," said I. And Job went they're on, an you'll find that down in the was jumped up into his place and signified they're on, an you'll find that down in they agreed to the armistice. They your charts. The chap as told me was your charts. a fishing cruise."

"How did they get there?" English, Frenchers an Danes-that feared that the darkness would come banded together at the mines to escape. down before we could reach it. They gets out, reaches the coast, seizes a boat an puts to sea. They meant to she was a carrack. The breeze which reach one o' the Islands an live there brought her up had lagged behind, and till they could steal a ship that would she had run into a belt of ca. carry them home, but the boat was laxing our efforts not one whit. knocked to splinters in the surf on pushed flercely on, urging the bon landing, an having no tools to build an with Titan strokes;" for we were other they found themselves safely gaunt famine worn specters, no starve-

"See, Alec," said I, unrolling a chart out a day's pittance to make it last and sprending it on the ground. "Give over ten. In bodily health we were all me a crew of six, and I'll take the hale and hearty and as good m Scourge round, leaving you others here. we were the day before, save for By keeping plenty of northing we shall mad thirst which consumed be out of the usual track and can be that is a madness beside which all othback here in ten days without sighting er emotions sink to nothing; passio But no-Alec would not hear it. If | age touches them. Urged |

tempt the landing. Heaven grant they that he had never quite recovered from the wound he got in the battle with the

> We all felt great concern for the old man, and, though we knew he would

halion, with the old scar on his face the Spaniards might have elected to he knew that the fire would break on same ears and carry 'em home like a slings and rigging all in hopeless defenders lay dead and dying did the Topp, with a pike thrust through the

est plunder hunter sicken of his trade! enemy grew in power and height. Inc. The Spaniard whipped out a venom- Don Miguel had no notion of allowing crew to reef or haul the sails, the hull and true comrade and now another as of the way. Spaniard was never so ous oath and yence to his men to hie as to spon his ship unmoiested.

again. 'A broadside crashed over our Scarcely had we got into the swing of the price of plunder. The swing of the swi again. A proauside crashed over our scarcely had we got into the swing of deck, too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves too high fortunately to do much work than he and a strong party with leaves to be a strong party with leaves to be

ful surgeoning and John Topp's tireless | Scarcely had we pulled a cable's we might have had her round before any longer.

A look of solemn importance strugber and so run to a distance to re At this Alec, leaving me in charge of A look of solemn importance strugber.

A look of solemn importance strugber and so run to a distance to re At this Alec, leaving me in charge of A look of solemn importance strugber. ". But the firing had flattened down the cabin, returned to his own vessel gled hard to drive the grin from Job's The end of our nursing came at last. shower around the column of smoke "We might go back to the old harbor Some conquered their wounds, and which marked the place where the "Don Miguel, if you do not cease from snug enough, an them huts on the hill when the last grave had been dug and The rest of the night dragged itself

with one pair of oars we could h little beadway through the calm, ex had we known where to steer for. Which of us did not envy the old the buts, "an that counts in the old man in his beautiful island hermitage

We looked around at the unbroken "Twelve men," said I, "are more circle of the horizon, with the water you an the old man an nevvy Job, little comfort from the cheering words in general, has unstowed a few grains could reach us from such a barren o' sense for this time o' need, I don't fiery wilderness? What oasis could we say but we should have lost a hand or hope to find in such a broiling, track-

in a half musing tone, "if we could some relief. To active men there "But you can't," replied the boat this, for indolence is the advance picket

soul, ever given to quaffing what was deed, as evening drew near, I began to "Why, yes, captain, an easy. Los fear that before another watch had run Roques is the name o' the islands out madness or death must be the end

dying glory lit upon a sail that peeped above the southern water line. Wit. "Well, you see, they're a scratch lot- frenzied effort we made for it and As we drew nearer we made out that

lings of the ocean who had been eking and prudence alike die when the thirs.

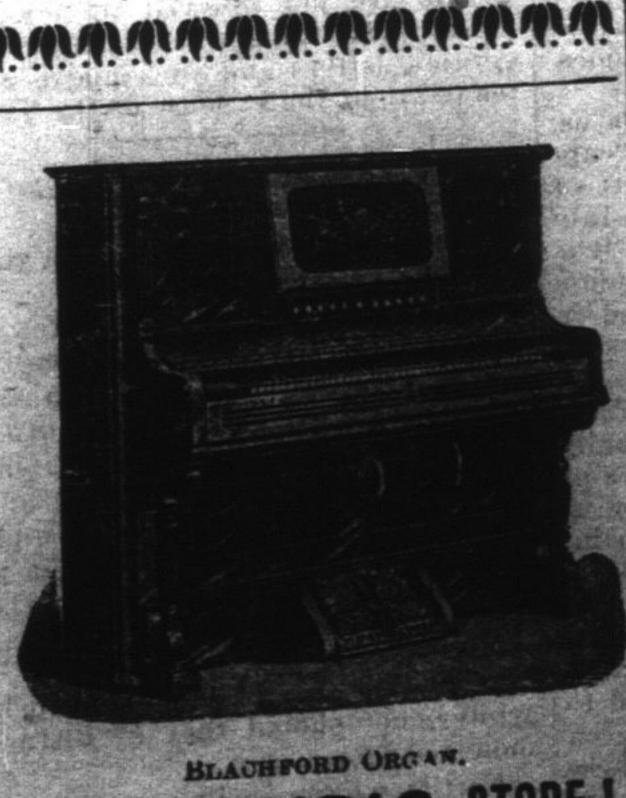
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Hitherto, save for a few shot holes in make us. Give him a light line, and cheer our lads set to work again on the