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Master Benjamin Hornigold

to come directly from him-through

his agency, that is. He desired it to

prayed Satan might be long ones-to

And, strange as it may seem, there

was still a certain loyalty of a distort-

ed, perverted kind in the man's breast.

No matter what Morgan had done, no

one else should punish him but himself.

He would even have fought for his

sometime chief, were it necessary,

against the king or his law if need be.

He was therefore very much disturbed

over what he heard. Had it been pos-

sible he would have warned Morgan

immediately of his purposed arrest,

but he had been detained on the frig-

old time buccaneers, proscribed men,

the worst came, Hornigold, who with

his little pinnace had kept in touch

with them secretly, could assemble

them for the rescue of their old cap-

tain. Then the former governor, in his

power and in their possession, could

be disposed of at their leisure and

pleasure. All these things had busied

the man during the evening, and he sat

even now in the midst of the revelry

about him plunged in profound thought.

count of every man who was present.

and enjoyed a wide acquaintance

quented the harbor. He decided there

were then in that room perhaps twenty

men upon whom he could depend, prop-

er inducement being offered, for almost

any sort of service. Among these were

five or six superior spirits whom he

knew to be tried and true. There was

young Teach, the singer of the evening,

a drunken, dissolute vagabond who had

been discharged from his last ship for

insubordination and a quarrelsome at-

tack upon one of his officers, for which

he had narrowly escaped hanging as a

mutineer. The man was as bold as a

lion, though; he could be trusted.

There, too, was Rock Braziliano, a Por-

tuguese half breed, and hobnobbing

with him was Raveneau de Lussan, a

the huge Dutchman Velsers was nod-

These men and a few others were

veterans like Hornigold himself. They

were the best of the lot, but for the

most part the assemblage was made up

of the sweepings of the town, men who

had the willingness to do anything, no

matter how nefarious it might be, their

only deterrent being lack of courage.

Hornigold's single eye swept over them

with a fierce gleam of contempt, yet

these were they with whom he must

One or two others in whom he re-

osed confidence, men who composed

he crew of his own pinnace, he had

sent off early in the evening to Spanish

Town to gather what news they could.

One of them came in and reported that

the squadron of horse which had gone

up with the officers to bring back Mor-

gan had come back without him and

why this was, but hope instantly

sprang up in Hornigold's breast upon

receipt of this news. Knowing Morgan

as he did, he was convinced that he had

found some means to dispose of the

two officers and send away the cavalry.

ding stupidly over his rum.

work in case of necessity.

Unobserved himself, he had taken ac-

whom he was indebted for it all.

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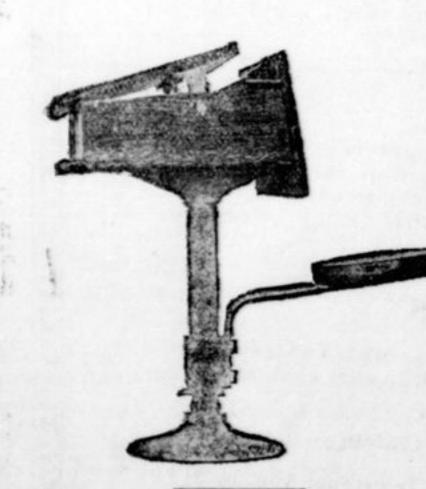
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when he saw the fall form of the ma-Hornigold had informed-outwardly, roon appearing in the doorway through that is-and was now engaged in the the smoke. No one else noticed the siuseful and innocent business of pilotlent Carib's entry, and he stood moing ships into the harbor, also steering tionless until Hornigold's eye fastened upon him. Then by an imperceptible down, into the Blue Anchor tavern, in move of his head he indicated a desire which place his voice and will were to speak with him without the room. supreme. He had heard, for Lord Car-The one eyed nodded slightly in token lingford had made no secret of his that he understood, and the maroon orders, that his old master was to be vanished as silently as he had come. arrested and sent back to England. Walting a few moments, Hornigold The news which would have brought rose from his seat and began threading joy to a lesser villain, in that it meant his way through the boisterous crowd toward the door. Thrusting aside defor such was the peculiarity of his taining hands and answering rude hatred that he wanted the punishment queries with an old sailor's ready banter, bidding them on no account to cease the festivities because of his departure and, in fact, ordering a new draft of rum for all hands, he succeeded in breaking away under cover of

> It was pitch dark outside, and he stopped a moment, hesitating as to what he should do. He had no doubt that the maroon had a message for him from his master. But a second had elapsed when he felt a light touch on his shoulder. His hand went instantly to the seaman's hanger at his side, and he faced about promptly. A ready man was Master Hornigold.

the cheers which greeted this an-

"It's I, bo's'n," whispered a familiar "You, Black Dog? Where's your

be of such character that it should be neither speedy nor easy, and he lusted master?" most of all that Morgan should know "Yonder." in his last hours-which Hornigold

"Let me see him." A tall, slender figure muffled in a heavy riding coat sat in the stern sheets of a small boat in the deepest shadow of one of the silent and deserted piers. "Captain Morgan?" whispered Hornigold softly, as, followed by the maroon, he descended the landing stairs toward

the boat. "'Tis you, Master Hornigold," answered the man, with an accent of relief in his voice, thrusting the pistol back into his belt as he spoke. He, too, was a ready man with his weapons and one not to be caught napping in

ate by necessary duties from which he "Me it is, sir." answered the boatcould find no means of escape until swain, "and ready to serve my old "You heard the news?"

"I heard it on the frigate this after-

"Why did you not send me warn-"I had no chance. I'd 'a' done it.

sir, if I could have fetched away." ibbean just below Hispaniola in whose "Well, all's one. I've laid those two wooded interior still lurked some of the landlubbers by the beels. Eh, Carib?" "Where are they, sir?"

who from time to time did pirating in "I might make a guess, for I left a small way on their own accountthem bound and the house blazing." just enough to keep their hands in. If "'Tis like old times."

"Aye. I've not forgot the old tricks. "No, sir. And what's to do now?" "Why, the old game once more."

"What? Do you mean"-"I do. What else is there left for me? Scuttle me, if I don't take it out of the dons! It's their doing. They've had a rest for nigh twenty years. We'll let it slip out quietly among the islands that Harry Morgan's affoat once more and there's pickings to be

He knew all the habitues of the port "Aye, of course. But we lack a nace. among the seamen whose vessels fre-

women and pieces of eight. Art with

"There's one yonder, man," cried Morgan, pointing up the harbor, where the lights of the Mary Rose twinkled in the blackness.

"To be sure the ship is there, but"-

"But what?" "We've no force. The old men are

"I am here," answered Morgan, "and you and Black Dog. And there are a few others left. Teach is new, but will serve. I heard his bull voice roaring out from the tavern. And De Lussan and Velsers and the rest. I've kept sight of ye. Curse it all, I let you live when I might have hanged you."

"You did, captain, you did. You didn't hang everybody, but you didn't Frenchman, prime seamen and bold spare, either." fellows both. Farther down the table "Listen," said Morgan quickly. "This

is my plan. In the morning when Hawxherst and Bradley do not appear

"He's mine!" whispered Hornigold



the new governor will send more men. They will find the house burned down. No one saw us come hither. There will be in the ruins the remains of three without the officers. The spy's insig- | bodies."

nificance prevented him from learning | "Three?" "Yes. My Lady Morgan's." "Did you kill her?"

"I didn't have to. They'll think that one of them is mine. No hue or cry will be raised and no search made for me. Do you arrange that the crew of He was not unprepared, therefore, the Mary Rose be given liberty for

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T. H. Estabrooks

the evening yonder at the Blue Anchor. They've not been ashore yet, I take it?" "No, but they will go tomorrow."

"That's well. Meanwhile gather together the bold fellows who have stomach for a cruise and are willing to put their heads through the halter provided there are pieces of eight on the other side, and then we'll take the frigate tomorrow night and away for the Spanish main. That will give us a start. We'll pick up what we can along the coast first, then scuttle the ship, cross the isthmus, seize another and have the whole south seas before us-Peru, Manila, wherever we will." "The king has a long arm."

"Yes, and other kings have had long arms, too, I take it, but they have not caught Harry Morgan nor ever shall. Come, man, wilt go with me?"

"Never fear." answered Hornigold promptly. "I've been itching for a chance to cut somebody's throat. Where will you lay hid until tomorrow

"I have thought of that," said Morgan promptly. "I think the best place will be the cabin of your pinnace. I'll just get aboard, Black Dog here and I. and put to sea. Tomorrow night at this hour we'll come back again, and you will find us here at the wharf."

"A good plan, Master Morgan," cried Hornigold, forgetting the title as the scheme unfolded itself to bim. "What's o'clock, I wonder?" As he spoke the sound of a bell

tapped softly came floating over the quiet water from the Mary Rose. "Four bells," answered Morgan, listening: "at 10 of the clock, then,

shall be here.' "Leave the rest to me, sir," answered

Hornigold.

"I shall. That will be your boat yon-

"Aye. Just beyond the point." "Is anyboly aboard of her?"

"No one." "Is there rum and water enough for

"Plenty. In the locker in the cuddy." "Good! Come, Carib! Until tomor-

row night, then!" "Aye, aye, sir!" said Hornigold, lean had on the Spanish main-wine and ing over the pier and watching the boat fade into a black blur on the water as it drew away toward the pin-

> "He's mine, by heaven, he's mine!" he whispered under his breath as he turned and walked slowly up to the

It was late when Hornigold returned to the parlor of the Blue Anchor inn. Half the company were drunk on the floor under the tables. The rest were singing or shouting or cursing in accordance with their several moods.

By his orders the inn servants at once cleared the room of the vainly protesting revelers. Those whose appearance indicated a degree of respectability which promised payment for their accommedation were put to bed. The common sort were bundled unceremoniously out on the strand before the door and left to sober up as best they might in the soft tropic night. Teach, Raveneau and the Brazilian were detained for conference with the boatswain. To these worthies, therefore, Hornigold unfoided Morgan's plan, which they embraced with alacrity, promising each to do his share. Velsers was too stupidly drunk to be told anything, but they knew they could count upon him without fail.

CHAPTER III. HE next morning, after waiting a reasonable time for a message from the two soldiers at Spanish Town, Lord Carlingford, the new governor, who had taken up his residence temporarily at Port Royal, summoned his attendants and himself repaired to the seat of government to ascertain why no further report had been received from his officers. Great was his astonishment when he found that the residence of the vice governor had been destroyed by fire during the night. The frightened slaves could tell nothing. Morgan and Carib had taken care that no one had marked their departure. Consequently when the search of the ruins revealed the remains of three bodies so badly charred as to be unrecognizable it was naturally inferred at first that they were those of the buccaneer and

the two unfortunate officers. It was known among the people of the place, however, that Lady Morgan had been seriously ill, so ill that she could not have been removed, and there were some who suspected that one of the bodies was hers and that the arch fiend himself had by some means disposed of the officers and escaped Therefore a hue and cry was raised for him and a strict search instituted by order of the governor, who, after setting affairs in motion, returned to Port Royal. Troops were accordingly ordered out

and even details of surly seamen growling at being deprived of their accustomed shore liberty, were detailed from the frigate, which happened to be the only war vessel in commission in the harbor. Hornigold, Raveneau and one or two of the others known to be former companions of the buccaneer were closely interrogated, but they stoutly declared they did not know his whereabouts and had seen nothing of him. Later in the afternoon it was observed that Hornigold's pinnace was not in the harbor. Indeed, with cunning adroitness, that master mariner himself called attention to the fact, cursing the while his old commander for his alleged theft of the boat and declaring his willingness to join in the search for him. It was known to the authorities that the execution of the boatswain's brother by Morgan had shattered the old intimacy which subsisted between them; consequently his protestations were given credence, and suspicion of collusion was diverted from him.

Lord Carlingford finally determined to send the Mary Rose to sea in an endeavor to overhaul the pinnace in the hope that the former vice governor might be found on her, although the chances of success were but faint. The frigate, however, was not provisioned or watered for a cruise after her long voyage from England. There had been considerable scurvy and other sickness on the ship, and she was in no condition to weigh anchor immediately. She would have to be resupplied and the sick men in her crew replaced by drafts from the shore. Besides, in accordance with the invariable custom. the great majority of the men had been given shore leave for that afternoon and evening, and those few who were not on duty were carousing at the Blue Anchor inn and similar tay-

The frightened slaves could tell nothing



erns and would be utterly unable to work the ship should they be called upon to do so without being given a chance to sober up. This would take time, and Lord Carlingford upon the representations of his sea officers decided to wait until the morrow before commencing work. As he could do so, not only personal

ly, but through his able lieutenants, Hornigold busied himself during the day and the preceding night in enlisting as vicious a gang of depraved ruffians as could be gathered together in what was perhaps the wickedest city in the world. It had been decided after conference between the leaders that there was no place within the confines of Port Royal itself where so many men could meet without exciting suspicion. He had accordingly appointed a rendezvous for the night across the narrow entrance to the harbor, opposite the fort, under the trees which overshadowed the strand, some distance back from high water mark. Singly or in groups of two or three the men had gone across in boats after sunset, successfully eluding observation, for the night was moonless and very dark.

There was rum in plenty under the trees on the point, but care was taken by Rock Braziliano, Raveneau and the others, even including Velsers, that no one should drink enough to lose entire control of his faculties or to become ob-

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streperous. No fires were lighted; no smoking was permitted. Strict silence was enjoined and enforced. It was perhaps 10 o'clock before all were assembled.

When morning had cleared their brains of the rum they had taken, there had been ferocious opposition on the part of the older men. Not that they objected to buccaneering. They were eager for the chance once more. But the memory of Morgan's betrayals of his old comrades rankled deep. There were many besides Hornigold who had promised themselves the luxury of vengeance upon their old commander. There were none, however, who had so dwelt upon it as the boatswain, nor were there any whose animosity and determination compared to his fierce hatred. He was therefore able at last to persuade them into a surly willingness to accept Morgan as their captain in this new enterprise. Indeed, without him they could do nothing, for there was no one who possessed the ability or experience to lead them save he. The best men of the old stamp were now in the south seas and far away; they had been driven from the Caribbean. It was not difficult for Hornigold to show them that it must be Morgan or no one.

Their feelings of animosity were, perforce, sunk beneath the surface, aithough they smoldered still within their breasts. They would go with him, they said. But let him look to himself, they swore threateningly. If he betrayed them again there were men among them who would kill him as remorselessly as they would stamp on a centiped. If he behaved himself and the expedition on which he was to lead them proved successful they might forgive him-all but old Hornigold. Truth to tell, there was no one among them who felt himself so wronged or so badly treated as the one eyed envenomed sailor.

The bulk of the party, which numbered perhaps a hundred men, were simply plain, ordinary thieves, cutthroats, broken down seamen, land sharks and rascals. Not much was to be expected of them. They were not of the stuff of which the old time buccaneers had been made, but they were the best to be obtained at that time in Port Royal. Even they would not have been so easily assembled had they realized quite what was expected of them. They knew, of course, that they were committing themselves to some nefarious undertaking, but to each recruit had been vouchsafed only enough information to get him to come to the rendezvous, no more.

[CONTINUED "

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