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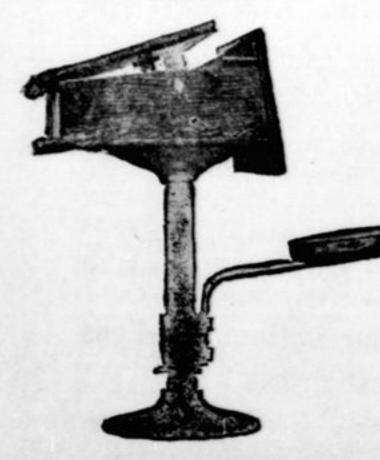
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worthy composedly, sustaining the cap-

tain's searching gaze. A braver man

never stepped a deck than he. "I did

it to divert their attention. You see,

they fancied at first that we old sea

dogs might have something to do with

your escape. They reckoned that you

had been hard on us and that we might

"No more of this, gentlemen! The

past is gone! We begin again!" cried

Morgan fiercely. "And, mark me, the

man who betrays Harry Morgan will

not live many minutes to boast it! I'd

kill him if he sat on the steps of a

throne! Easy there!" he called out to

the oarsmen, assuming the command

as by right, while the boat's keel grat-

ed on the shingle. "All out now and

lead the way. Nay, gentlemen, you

shall all precede me. Carib here will

bring up the rear. And it may be

well for you to keep your weapons in

embarked and walked rapidly toward

the place of assemblage under the

trees. Morgan and the maroon came

"The governor!" cried one and an-

other in surprise and alarm. The man

had been a terror to evildoers too poor

"Nay, men, governor no more," Mor

gan answered promptly-"a free sail-

or who takes the sea against the Span-

spirits of the crowd, and the rest,

heard. Hornigold, is there liquor?"

"Let each man have a noble draft.

"But, captain," spoke up Sawkins,

one of the boldest recruits, who was

not in the secret, "be ye goin' buc-

caneerin' in boats? Whar's the ship?"

"I have a ship in the harbor," cried

"Confusion, sir!" shouted Morgan.

"Begin ye by questioning me? Into the

boat with your comrades! Velsers, De

Lussan, Rock, see that the men get into

the boats as soon as they have their

Rose lies just within the bar. You.

Velsers and Rock, gain the fo'c'sl from

larboard and starboard. You, Teach

and Raveneau, board at the different

gangways. Hornigold, I'll go in your

boat, and we'll attend to the cabin.

Let all be done without noise. No pis-

and waste no time. If we gain the

deck without difficulty, and I think we

can, clap to the hatch covers, and we'll

cut cable and get under way at once."

boats rather reluctantly as he spoke,

but presently all was ready. Finally

Hornigold and then Morgan with the

maroon stepped into the last boat, first

making sure there were no stragglers

left behind, and Morgan gave the com-

Sawkins had boldly presumed, in

The men had been embarking in the

Morgan, "well found and provided."

"Aye, but what ship?"

be hard on ye"-

your belts."

and cocked pistol.

Who's with me?"

in the acclaim.

"Plenty, sir."

then to the boats."

to bribe.

tain, Sir Henry Morgan."

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By Hornigold's orders they were told off in five parties of about twenty each, commanded respectively by himself, Velsers, Raveneau, the Brazilian, and the last by Teach, who, though the youngest of the leaders, had a character for daring wickedness that would stop at nothing. With much difficulty the boatswain had succeeded in obtaining five boats, each capable of carrying one band. Every one brought his own arms, and in general these men did not lack a sufficiency of weapons. Those who were deficient, however, were supplied from a scanty stock which the leaders had managed to procure.

All was in readiness when one of the men who had been stationed on the extreme edge of the beach toward the channel reported the approach of a small boat looking like the pinnace.

The wind, fortunately for the enterprise, happened to be blowing fresh out of the harbor, and it was necessary for the pinnace to beat up toward the entrance. She showed no lights, but as she tacked in close to the shore between the watcher and the lights of the town he observed her. The boat was handled with consummate skill. She dropped anchor and hauled down her sails noiselessly just abreast the pier which had been appointed the rendezvous by the two men on the night before. As soon as Hornigold learned of the approach he took a small boat, leaving Velsers in command of the band on shore, and repaired with the other leaders to the wharf on the other side. As the boat approached the wharf it was hailed in a sharp whis-

"Who comes?" cried the voice on

"Hornigold!" answered the boatswain in a low tone as the boat swept alongside.

"So 'tis you, is it?" cried Morgan, attended by the maroon, as usual, again putting his pistol back into his belt. "Seeing so many of you in the skiff. I feared a trap until you gave the word."

"I've brought along Raveneau, the Brazilian, and young Teach," said the boatswain.

"Welcome, my hearties, all!" said the vice governor softly. "We're off to the Spanish main with a good ship, plenty of liquor beneath the hatches. brave hearts to run her. There will be plenty of pickings meet for any man. Are you with me?"

"We are." answered one and an-

The place where they stood was lonely and deserted at that time of night, but Hornigold suggested that they immediately repair to the other side, there to perfect their further plans.

"How many men have you gather-

ed?" asked Morgan. "About fivescore."

"Boats?"

"Who leads each boat?"

"I one, sir, with your permission Raveneau here another, the Brazilian the third, young Teach a fourth and Velsers the fifth."

"Good! Are they all armed?" "Every man has a sword and a pistol

at least."

"What of the men?" "A poor lot," answered Teach reck-

lessly, "a dastardly crew." "Will they fight, think ye?"

"Curse me, they'll have to fight. "We'll make 'em," said Hornigold.

"Do they know what's up?" "Not exactly," answered Raveneau,

the Frenchman, a man of good birth and gentle manners, but as cruel and ruthless a villain as any that ever cut a throat or scuttled a ship. "Have no fear, captain. Once we start them they will have to fight."

"Did you ever know me to show fear, De Lussan?" cried the captain, bending forward and staring at the Frenchman, his eyes glittering in the darkness like hose of a wildcat.

"No, captain." "No, nor did any other man," an-

swered Morgan. After a short pause Morgan resumed: "Have they suspected my escape?" "They have," answered the boatswain. "They found the remains of the three bodies in the burned house this morning. At first they thought one of them was yours, but they decided aft- aboard of." er awhile that one was a woman, and

got away." "And he swore and cursed you to their taste. "What ship?" roundly, captain," interposed the Brazilian, chuckling maliciously. "Aye, sir, he swore if he got hands on you he

would give you up." Morgan turned this time to Hornigold. He was by no means sure of his position. He knew the enmity of these men, and he did not know how far their cupidity or their desire to take up the old life once more under such fortunate auspices as would be afford-

ed under his command would restrain "Master Ben Hornigold, said ye that?" he queried. "Would ye betray

His hand stole to his waist, and his fingers closed around his pistol grip. "No fear, captain," answered that

spite of the commander, to open his mouth again as the boats slowly left the beach, rowing through the passage and up the harbor against the ebb just beginning. He pulled the stroke oar in Hornigold's boat. "Before I go further," he cried, "I want to know what ship we're goin' with the officers and escaped. I told them you had stolen my pinnace and

mand to shove off.

"Aye!" came in a subdued roar from they guessed that you had made away the men behind him, who only needed a leader to back out of the enterprise. ing, began to seem not quite so much

"What, the Mary Rose-the king's painful as they were unusual. ship!" cried the men, ceasing to row.

Row, you dogs!



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Much impressed, the little party dis- In an instant Morgan's pistol was out. maiea, then the headquarters of the His motion was followed by Hornigeld and the maroon.

"Row, you dogs!" he cried fiercely. last, each of them with a bared sword The stroke oarsman hesitated, although the others tried to pick up the "Lads," said Hornigold as they apstroke. proached the men. "here's your cap-

"I give you one minute—then I blow out your brains, pull out the plug in this boat, and we'll all go to hell together," said Morgan truculently to the recalcitrant men.

"Row for your lives' sake!" cried the man behind Sawkins, hitting him in the back with the haft of the oar.

"It's the king's ship!" ish dons. We'll go buccaneering as "What do we care for the king?" in the old days. These men here," said Morgan, "He is the law, and pointing to the group of officers, "can none of us love the law. Two-thirds of tell you what it means. You have her crew are drunk; t'other third are heard tales of the jolly, roving life of ashore or sick. They are unprepared, the brethren of the coast. We'll do a asleep. There'll be naught but the anlittle picking in the Caribbean, then chor watch. One sharp blow and we over the isthmus and then down into have the frigate, then away. What fear the south seas. There's wine and wo- ye, lads?"

men and treasure to be nad for the By such words as these, but more by taking. The Spaniards are cowards, the threatening appearance of the Let them hear that Harry Morgan is weapons pointed from the stern sheets, once more on the sea under the Jolly Morgan inspirited his men, and by Roger, and they will tremble from similar language and threats the men Darien down to the strait of Magellan. in the other boats did the same. After It will be fair play and the old shares. rowing a short distance the flotilla separated. Those approaching from the "I!" "I!" broke from the bolder farther side of the ship necessarily made a wide detour, for which the catching the contagion, finally joined others waited, so they would all arrive simultaneously. In perfect silence, bro-"Easy," said the captain, "lest we be ken only by the "cheep" of the oars in the locks, the five boats swept down on the doomed frigate.

CHAPTER IV.

HE Mary Rose was a ship with a history. The battle roster of the English navy had borne many of her name. In each instance she had been found in the thickest of the fighting. The present vessel was an old ship, having been built some thirty years before, but she was still stanch and of a model which combined strength with speed. The most conspicuous expedition she had parties-

dram. And hark ye, gentlemen, a word pated in had been a desperate defense with ye!" calling them apart while the of a convoy in the Mediterranean rest were being served. "Put the bold- against seven Sallee rovers, in which est men in the stern sheets with your- after a hard engagement lasting four selves, the rest at the oars, and do you hours the Mary Rose triumphed decihave your weapons ready. The Mary sively without losing a single sail of

her convoy. The commander of the ship on this memorable and heroic occasion had been knighted on his return to Englard and on the accession of James had been sent to Jamaica with Lord Carlingford as vice governor to take tols. Use the blade. Take no prisoners command of the naval station and supersede Morgan. Admiral Sir John Kempthorne was an elderly man at this time, but his spirit was the same that had enabled him to withstand so successfully the overwhelming on-

> claught of the Algerine pirate ships. The English navy, however, was then in a state of painful decay. The ships



which, as it threatened to involve fight- were in bad repair and commanded by landsmen who shirked going to sea. They were ill found, the wages "The frigate," answered Hornigold of the seamen not paid. In short, they presented pictures of demoralization as

Kempthorne, having been a tried and a successful naval commander in his younger days, had striven, with some success so far as his own ship was concerned, to stem the prevailing tide of ruin, and the Mary Rose was perhaps one of the best frigates in the service, which, however, was not saying a great deal. He could not of course better the character of the crew which had been provided for him, nor could he entirely resupply the ship or make good her faulty and deficient equipment, but he did the best he could. King James had sent him as one of his best admirals across the sea to the important island of JaWest India squadron.

The admiral was seated in the cabin of the frigate that night cogitating upon his plans when his thoughts were interrupted by the rattle of oars, indicating the arrival of a boat. The sound of the approaching boat came faintly through the open stern windows of the cabin under the high poop

The ship was more or less deserted The sick men had been put ashore. Most of the crew and the officers as well had followed them. They would not be back until the morrow, when Sir John had orders to get away in pursuit of Hornigold's pinnace. With the captain in the cabin, however, was the old master of the ship, a man who had been promoted to that rank after the famous fight with the Algerines because of his gallantry in that action. Kempthorne was consulting with him about the necessary arrangements before sailing the next day.

As the admiral heard the noise made by the oars in the oarlocks he raised his voice, and, calling a sentry, for there was half a platoon of soldiers on board who had not yet been allowed liberty, he bade him ascertain if the approaching boat was one containing

At the same time the admiral arose, buckled on his sword and made ready to go on deck to meet Lord Carlingford should it prove to be his expected visitor. Pausing a moment to say a final word to the master, he was conscious of something striking the ship. Before he could formulate the idea that a boat must have hit the bends there were several similar shocks. The old master, who happened to be unarmed, stepped forward.

"That will be a boat, sir," he sa'd quickly, "striking against the side of ship. There's another and an-

"Let us go on deck at once." said Kempthorne, stepping forward, As he did so the silence was broken by a wild, terrified cry. A moment after the sentry on the quarter deck outside the entrance to the peop cabin fired his piece. The shot was followed by the sound of a heavy fall. A sharp, imperious voice cried quickly: "The ship is ours! Waste no time!

Overboard with him! Clap to the hatch covers!"

side was apparently at an end. The the vessel to the anchor was cut, the heavy covers were flung down upon ship swung to starboard, the yards the hatches and secured. The ship were braced in, and she began to slip was filled with a confused babel of through the water toward the narrow many voices and tramping feet. At | mouth of the harbor. There were other the sound of the shot the admiral and war vessels in the harbor, but they the master sprang to the door, but be- were all dismantled and laid up in fore they could pass the entrance it ordinary, so the buccaneers had no purwas flung violently open, and a man | suit to fear. richly dressed after the fashion of Jamaica, followed by a tall, savage looking half breed, a compound of negro and Indian, clad in a gorgeous livery, each with pistol and sword, sprang into the room and forced the two men back. As soon as he could recover himself Kempthorne whipped out his sword. He found himself covered, however, as did the master, with a

"Throw down your sword," cried Morgan fiercely, "and yield yourselves without quarter!"

"Who are you that ask?" "Sir Henry Morgan."

"You bloody villain," cried Kempthorne, "dare you attempt to take the king's ship?" "That for the king!" answered Mor-

gan, waving his sword. "Who are "Sir John Kempthorne, admiral and

vice governor of Jamaica." "You would fain fill my station, would you, sir?" "I would not descend to the station

of a pirate, a robber, a murderer, a"furiously. "The ship is ours! I've a message for the king. Wilt carry it?" "I would not insult my royal master by carrying a message from such as

"You will have it!" shouted Morgan, white with rage, lunging forward at

Their blades crossed in an instant, and at the same mement the old master, reckless of what happened, flung himself between the two. There was a rear frem Carib's pistel, and the old man fell. As Kempthorne relaxed his guard slightly in the confusion Morgan

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ran him through. The admiral fell so suddenly that he jerked the blade, buried in his breast, out of the buccaneer's

"God," he gasped as he lay upon the body of the old sailor-"God-save the -king!" "Wouldst sit in my place, eh?" cried

Morgan, laughing truculently as he

turned on his heel and left the cabin. Beneath the hatches the platoon of soldiers and the men there imprisoned were yelling and making a tremendous racket. They were helpless, however, and could do nothing. The men of the boarding parties were clustered in groups forward and aft and around the closed passageways into the interior of the ship waiting for the next

The noise and confusion which had followed the sentry's bold shot had awakened the attention of the people of the town. Lights twinkled on the ramparts of the fort, and the long rell of a drum could be heard coming faintly up the harbor against the wind. Lord Carlingford had just entered his boat to board the ship. There was not a moment to lose.

"Hornigold, go forward with your men to the forecastle. Velsers, come you hither with yours for the after guard; Teach to the fore, Raveneau to the main and lock to the mizzenmast. Loose sail. Lively now. We must get out of this before the fort's awake," cried Morgan,

Instantly the shrouds were covered

with nimble forms making their way aloft where the wide yardarms stretched far over the sea. The men were in good spirits, the capture of the ship had been so easy. There had been only the anchor watch and the sentry on deck to deal with, and they had been murdered unsuspecting, although the cabin sentry had killed one of the attacking party and wounded another before he went down. They jumped with alacrity, therefore, to obey their captain's commands. As the ponderous sheets of canvas fell from the yards the men lay down from aloft, and sheets and halyards The necessity for concealment out- were manned, the cable that moored

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