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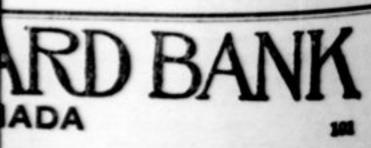
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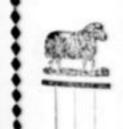
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STERNALL McKechnie's Old Stand

trom

By GEORGE BARR M'CUTCHEON

CHAPTER XXXII.

IN THE SAME GRAVE WITH SKAGGS. OWN in the village of Arata there were signs of a vast commotion. Early risers and the guards were flying from house to house, shouting the news.

Outside the harbor lay the low, savage looking ship. Its guns were pointed directly at the helpless town. Its decks were swarming with white clothed men.

plague was forgotten. The strategy that had driven off the ships of peace was lost in the face of this ugly creature of war. Rasula's reign of strategy was ended.

"They will not fire! They dare not!" he was shricking as he dashed back and forth along the dock. "It is chance! They do not come for Chase! Believe in' me! The tug! The tug! They must not land!"

The crash of the long unused six pounder at the chateau, followed almost immediately by a great roar from one of the cruiser's guns, brought the panie to a crisis.

The islanders scattered like chaff before the wind, looking wild eyed over their shoulders in dread of the pursuing cannon ball, dodging in and out among the houses and off into the foothills Rasula, undaunted, but crazed with

disappointment, stuck to his colors on the deserted dock. He cursed and raved and begged. In time two or three of the more canny, realizing that safety lay in an early peace offering, ventured out beside him. Others followed their example, and still others slunk trembling to the fore, their voices ready to protest innocence and friendship and loyalty.

They had heard of the merciless American gunner, and they knew in their souls that he could shoot the island into atoms before nightfall.

The native lawyer harangued them and cursed them and at last brought them to understand in a feeble way that no harm could come to them if they faced the situation boldly. The Americans would not land on British soil; it would precipitate war with England. They would not dare to attempt a bombardment; Chase was a ing himself hoarse in his frenzy of despair he finally succeeded in forcing the men to get up steam in the com-

All this time the officers of the American warship were dividing their attention between land and sea. Another vessel was coming up out of the knew it to be a British man-of-war!

Suddenly a party of white men approached the startled Rasula. A hundred eager hands were extended, a hundred voices cried out for mercy, a hundred Mohammedans beat their heads in abject submission.

Hollingsworth Chase, Lord Deppingham and a familiar figure in an ill fitting red jacket and forage cap strode firmly, defiantly between the rows of humble Japatites. Close behind them came a tall, resolute grenadier of the Rapp-Thorberg army.

Mr. Bowles was crying, brandishing the antique broadsword that had come down to Wyckholme from the dark ages. "Stand aside for the British government! Make way for the Amer-

Rasula's jaw hung limp in the face of this amazing exhibition of courage on the part of the enemy. He was glaring insanely at the calm, triumphant face of the man from Brodney's, who was now advancing upon him with the assurance of a conqueror.

"You see, Rasula, I have called for the cruiser, and it has come at my bidding." Turning to the crowd that surged up from behind, cowed and cringing. Chase said: "It rests with you. If I give the word that ship will blow you from the face of the earth. I am your friend, people. I would do you no harm, but good. You have been misled by Rasula. Rasula, you are not a fool. You can save yourself even now. I am here as the servant of these people, not as their master. I intend to remain here until I am called back by the man who sent me to you. You have"-

Rasula uttered a shrick of rage. He had been crouching back among his cohorts, panting with fury. Now he sprang forward, murder in his eyes. His arm was raised, and a great pistol was leveled at the breast of the man who faced him so coolly, so confidently. Deppingham shouted and took a step forward to divert the aim of the frenzied lawyer.

A revolver cracked behind the tall American, and Rasula stopped in his tracks. There was a great hole in his forehead. His eyes were bursting. He sank to the ground dead! The soldier from Rapp-Thorberg, a

smoking pistol in his hand, the other

raised to his helmet, stepped to the

side of Hollingsworth Chase.

sir," he said quietly.

"Good God!" gasped Chase, passing his hand across his brow. Deppingham, repressing a shudder, addressed the stunned natives:

"Take the body away. May that be the end of all assassins!"

The King's Own came alongside the American vessel in less than an hour. Accompanied by the British agent, Mr. Bowles, Chase and Deppingham left the dock in the company's tug and steamed out toward the two monsters. The American had made no move to send men ashore.

Standing on the forward deck of the swift little tug. Chase unconcernedly accounted for the timely arrival of the two cruisers.

"Three weeks ago I sent out letters by the mail steamer, to be delivered to the English or American commanders, wherever they might be found. Undoubtedly they were met with in the same port. That is why I was so positive that help would come sooner or later. I knew that we'd need help, and I knew that if I brought the cruisers my power over these people would never be disturbed again."

"My word!" exclaimed the admiring

"Chase, you may be theatric, but you are the most dependable chap the world has ever known," said Deppingham, and he meant it.

The warships remained off the harbor all that day. The British captain consented to leave a small detachment of marines in the town to protect Chase and the bank. To a man the islanders pledged fealty to the cause of peace and justice. They shouted the names of Chase and Allah in the same breath and demanded of the latter that he preserve the former's beard for all

liberated heirs to Aden, whither the cruiser was bound. At that port a P. and O. steamer would pick them up. One white man elected to stay on the island with Hollingsworth Chase, who steadfastly refused to desert his post until Sir John Brodney indicated that his mission was completed. That one man was the wearer of the red jacket, the bearer of the king's commission in Japat, the undaunted Mr. Bowles.

The Princess Genevra, the wistful light deepening hourly in her blue gray man whom she was leaving behind. himself to the ending of an impossible tials in Thorberg at the end of June. dream. There was nothing more to In Vienna the Deppinghams were say except farewell.

smiled down upon them. The soft ionables. In a week all of them would breeze of the sea whispered the curse be in the castle at Thorberg for the of destiny into their ears. It crooned ceremony that now occupied the atthe song of heritage; it called her back tention of social and royal Europe. to the fastnesses where love may not "And to think," said the duchess,

simply, giving him her hand-"always, and hopeless; her lips were white. He bowed his head. "May God give you all the happiness that I wish for

you." he said. "The end!" She looked steadily into his eyes for Lichtenstein. a long time, searching his soul for the misty horizon. The men on board hope that never dies. Then she gently withdrew her hands and stood away from him, humbled in her own soul.

> "Yes," she whispered. "Goodby." He straightened his shoulders and drew a deep breath through compressed nostrils. "Goodby! God bless you!" was all that he said.

She left him standing there. The wall between them was too high, too impregnable, for even love to storm. Lady Deppingham came to him there a moment later. "I am sorry," she said tenderly. "Is there no hope?"

"There is no hope-for her!" he said "Make way there! Make way!" bitterly. "She was condemned too long On the pier they said goodby to him.

> He was laughing as gayly and as blithely as if the world held no sorrows in all its mighty grasp. "I'll look you up in London," he said to the Deppinghams. "Remember, the

> real trial is yet to come. Goodby. Browne. Goodby, all. You may come again another day."

The launch slipped away from the pier. He and Bowles stood there, side by side, pale faced, but smiling, waving their handkerchiefs. He felt that Genevra was still looking into his eyes even when the launch crept up under the walls of the distant ship.

Slowly the great vessel got under way. The American cruiser was already low on the horizon. There was a single shot from the King's Own, a

reverberating farewell. Hollingsworth Chase turned away at last. There were tears in his eyes. and there were tears in those of Mr.

"Bowles," said he, "it's a beastly same grave with us."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

A TOAST TO THE PAST. HE middle of June found the Deppinghams leaving London

once more, but this time not on a voyage into the mysterious south seas. They no longer were interested in the island of Japat, except as a reminiscence, nor were they concerned in the vagaries of Taswell Skaggs' will.

The estate was settled-closed! Two months have passed since the Deppinghams departed from Japat "for good and all." Many events have

come to pass since that memoranie day, not the least of which was the exchanging of £500,000, less attorneys' and executors' fees. Lady Deppingham and Robert Browne divided that amount of money and passed into legal history as the "late claimants to

the estate of Taswell Skaggs." It was Sir John Brodney's enterprise. He saw the way out of the difficulty, and he acted as pathfinder to the other and less perceiving counselors, all of whom had looked forward to an endless controversy.

The business of the Japat company and all that it entailed was transferred by agreement to a syndicate. Never before was there such a stupendous deal in futures.

The grandchildren of the testators were ready to accept the best settlement that could be obtained. Theirs was a rather forlorn hope to begin with. When it was proposed that Agnes Deppingham and Robert Browne should accept £250,000 apiece in lieu of all claims, moral or legal, against the estate, they leaped at the

They had seen but little of each other since landing in England, except as they were thrown together at the con ferences. Lady Agnes went in for every diversion imaginable. For wonder, she dragged Deppingham with her on all occasions. It was a most unexpected transformation. Their friends were puzzled. The rumor went about town that she sas in love with

As for Bobby Browne, he was devotion itself to Drusilla. They sailed for New York within three days after the settlement was effected, ignoring the enticements of a London season. The Brownes were rich. He could now become a fashionable specialist. They were worth nearly a million and The King's Own was to convey the quarter in American dollars. They now had nothing in common with Taswell Skaggs. Skaggs is not a pretty

Mr. Britt afterward spent three weeks of incessant travel on the continent and an additional seven days at sea. In Baden-Baden he happened upon Lord and Lady Deppingham. It will be recalled that in Japat they had always professed an unholy aversion for Mr. Britt. Is it cause for wonder, then, that they declined his invitation to dine in Baden-Baden? He eyes, avoided being alone with the even proposed to invite their entire party, which included a few dukes and She had made up her mind to accept duchesses who were leisurely on their the fate inevitable. He had reconciled way to attend the long talked of nup-

joined by the Duchess of N., the The last day dawned. The sun Marchioness of B. and other fash-

"she might have died happily on that The chateau was in a state of up- miserable island. I am sure we did all heaval. The exodus was beginning. we could to bring it about by steaming The princess waited until the last mo- away from the place with the plague ment. She went to him. He was chasing us. Dear me, how diabolically standing apart from the rest, coldly those wretches lied to the marquis! indifferent to the pangs he was suffer- They said that every one in the chateau was dead, Lady Deppingham, and "I shall love you always," she said buried, if I am not mistaken. It would be much better for poor Genevra if Hollingsworth." Her eyes were wide she were to be buried instead of married next week," lamented the duch-

"Other women have married princes and got on very well," said Prince Large number of cheap farm properties.

"Oh, come now, prince," put in Lord Deppingham; "you know the sort of chap Brabetz is. There are princes and princes, by Jove."

"He's positively vile!" exclaimed the duchess, who would not mince words. "She's entering upon a hell of a-I mean a life of hell," exploded the duke, banging the table with his fist. "That fellow Brabetz is the rottenest thing in Europe. He's gone from bad to worse so swiftly that public opin-

ion is still months behind him." "Nice way to talk of the groom," said the host genially. "I quite agree with you, however. I cannot selectstand the grand duke permitting to to go on unless, of course, it's too late to Interfere."

"Poor dear! She'll never know what it is to be loved and cherished," said . the marchioness dolefully. Lord and Lady Deppingham glanced

at each other. They were thinking of the man who stood on the dock at Aratat when the King's Own sailed

"The grand duke is probably saying

Continued on page 7.

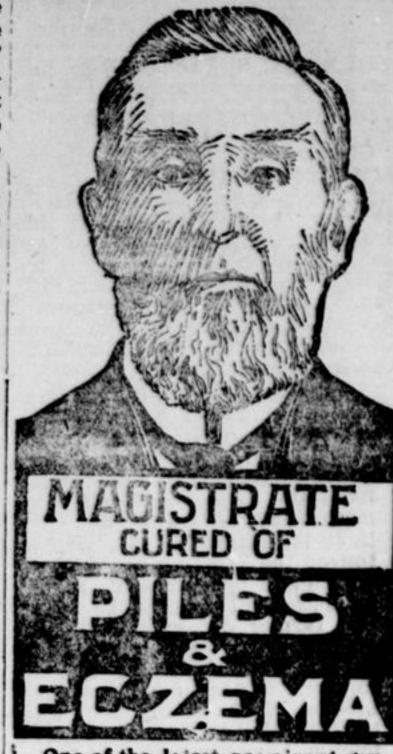
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such satisfaction as Zam-Buk. I had patch of Eczema on my ankle which had been there for over 20 years. Sometimes also the disease would break out on my shoulders. I had applied various oint ments and tried all sorts of things to obtain a cure, but in vain. Zam-Buk, unlike everything else I had tried, proved highly satisfactory and cured the ailment. "I have also used Zam-Buk for itching piles, and it has cured them completely also. I take comfort in helping my brother men, and if the publication of my opinion of the healing value of Zam-Buk will lead other sufferers to try it, I should be glad. For the relief of suffering caused by Piles or Skin Diseases I know of nothing to equal

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