the schooner. Outside, the betrayal.

the touch of a woman's lips; it was beach. He saw a blot in the big "Swim!" he repeated, and she his weapon once more beneath his indignation, the former speaker con- in time this pleasure palled as all him he fell with a crash. that he had begun his wanderings, was dripping underneath a wide- and she obeyed, thoroughly cowed made no move, and the command San Blas female, eh?" fleeing southward between moonrise leaved breadfruit tree at the jun- by his roughness. She turned upon was repeated. and moonest; southward, whither all | gle's edge. the scum of the Indies floated. But, The girl was at her father's house, close to his, her eyes fixed upon him exclamation that he did not under- far; something unusual, too, in this grin, 'You remember our bet, even to this day, when the full of a tending a fire on the dirt floor. It curiously, wonderingly. Her easy stand, whereat the canoemen ceased country." February moon came round with was a large house, for the old man progress through the water showed paddling, as if her word had paral- Inocencio began to laugh silently, "I never made you a bet," the dred," smiled Colonel Lawrence. the fragrent salt trades blowing was rich in daughters, and, by the that her fright had largely vanished, yzed them. They huried their voices as if at a joke. "Some day, maybe, American denied, hotly. "But I've Mrs. Elwes stood before him beneath it, the sated, stagnant blood come to live with him. He had Haytian been no uncommon swimbeneath it, the sated, stagnant blood come to live with him. He had Haytian been no uncommon swimplaying in the streets of Colon," and I think I know those people." five thousand," she stammered. thin mulatto face grew hard, and a and now only this youngest one re- tanced him. All the way out to the ble. The Espirita's crew ceased their

now beheld him, poised half nude a big store of tortoise shell from the at the rall, his flerce eyes bent upon groom-to-be, knowing full well that happened, however, they were all the fellow's name. asleep, all three of them.

had begun to sail this coast, and blackened by the smoke of many even though he was known on every feasts; there were no walls. The cay and bay from Nombre de Dios jungle crept close to it from the to Tiburon, and even though it was rear, and hence the watcher could recognized that Senor "Beel Weel- witness every movement of the girl liams" paid proper price for cocoa as she passed between the hamand ivory nuts, his head trader had mocks or stooped to her task. never beaten down the people's dis- It was very hard to wait. For an trust. On the contrary, their vigi- hour he stood there. Once a dog lance had increased, if anything, and came to him and sniffed, then, recnow, after four years of scrupulous ognizing a frequent visitor, returned fair dealing, he, Captain Inocencie, to the house and resumed its slumwas still compelled to sleep offshore ber beside the fire. From the houses and under guard, like any common beyond came the sound of voices, of

It had made the Haytian laugh at woman quieting it. first; for who would wish to harm | And then, before Inocencio reala San Blas woman, with the streets ized what she was up to, the girl of Colon but a hundred miles to the had stolen swiftly out and past him, west? Then, as the months crept so close that he could hear the scuff into years, and for voyage after of her sandals on the beaten path voyage he never saw a San Blas The next instant he had glided from woman's face, he became furious. cover and fallen in behind. Next he grew angry, then sullen. Had he been a less accomplished and a sense of injury burned into bushman he might have lost her, for

with many creeds and colors, and palms, and paused, he strode after they had retold him the tales he al- him close beside her, uttered a little ready knew by heart; tales of swift cry of pleasure. Not until he was and sudden retribution overtaking too near for flight did she discover blacks and whites; retribution that her mistake, and then she seemed to did not halt even at the French or freeze. the hated Americanos. They told It was the instant for which he gathered here since earliest Spanish her in her own tongue. days, the San Blas blood alone re- "Make no outcry! I will not harm tained its purity. It was his boss, you." the Senor Williams, who had gone | She drew back, at which he laid presumed to trespass.

Inocencio had listened passively: "I have waited for you many then, when alone, smiled. He owed no nights," he explained. "I am Ino-

the islands, the back streets of Colon sank into her flesh.

the San Blas coast. And then, one night, he slipped overside and swam ashore. It was not so dangerous as fit seemed, for, once he had gained the shelter of the jungle, no less than a pack of hounds could have the shelter of the jungle, no less than a pack of hounds could have followed him, inasmuch as the thickets were laced by a network of trails loosen. And all the time he drew upon the favor the moon and the coast was a mere charcoal line soldiers were called upon to visit the der the bed, m'sieu' will find a little that gave forth no sound to naked her with him, speaking softly. salt sea had rendered him. As for upon the port quarter and the salt spot, they came in numbers, never boy baby rolled up in a blanket. know he's got a-a letter of mine, soles, and the rustling branches overhead, played upon by the never-ceasing breeze, drowned all signal of his presence. Once he had defied shore. She called to her lover terior. Then she weakened. But for the night and went below, closure for the night and went below. the tribal law, he knew no further hoarsely, and saw him halt at the she had a will of her own, it seemed, ing and bolting the hatch behind for a for she refused to be locked inside. him. When the smoky lamp that loudly, staring at her from a disblood to an animal. Thereafter Inc. sight of her. She voiced words now The three blacks were snoring swung between the bunks was lit tance, but her black eyes only smot. You are well again you can have "You poor little girl, to think that cencio, the sutlaw, whose name was symbol of daring, became a jackal prowling through the midnight glades, tasting the scent of the will-make the scrape of her glades, tasting the scent of the will-make the scrape of her captor's machete as he drew it from her across the tilting floor and she stretched himself in the shade and full of women." Then, atrangely to shouldn't know I cencio, the outlaw, whose name was for the first time, crying: lages, and staring with hungry eyes its scabbard, she renewed her strug- while. When he saw that in truth arose to meet him, smiling. ond the shadow's edge. gle more flercely. Rather he became a panther, for in Captain Inocencio held the girl at slip and raged over the ship like a Senor Bill Williams was in a fine It was a week later that one of this boy of mine! They came to "Five thousand, just now-"

APTAIN INOCENCIO prepared and some few tense moments when that had made him an exile years But at last, when the Jamaicans ly?" queried Williams, incredulously. and, thrusting the machete beneath

distance swallowed it. Back of that swung the huge knife back until it into the moonlight, however, with their eyes and praying, for out from before. Eh, senor?" lay the groves of cocoanut trees, lay along the crease between his the dry sand up to their ankles, he the shore came a long mahogany "Humph! I guess I never will their plumes waving in the undying shoulders; then he seized the port let her breathe; then, pointing with cayuca, and it was full of straight- sabe you niggers," acknowledged the himself softly down- his machete to the Espirita lying haired men. since first the trade-winds breathed ward overside. The water rose to white and ghostlike in the offing, he It takes a sailing craft some time that you've got me into a hell of a upon them. Beneath the paims his chin. Without a ripple, he glid- drove her down into the warm sea to gain its momentum, and as yet fix? I've got to take a trip down themselves the jungle was ink-black, ed into the moonlight astern, and a until it reached her waist. patched here and there with silver. moment later his round, black head "Swim!" he ordered, and, when not struck the Espirita, hence the Inocencio lighted a black cigarette It was the sort of night that had was no more than a piece of bobbing she would have renewed the alarm, canoe overtook her rapidly. Ino- and blew the smoke through his

such a night that he had first felt noting the rows of dugouts on the blood. on such another night that he had mahogany cayuca, a great cance struck out, with him at her shoul- arm. first felt a man's warm blood upon hewn from one priceless trunk, and der. his hands. That had been long ago, recognized it for the sentinel. On But the village was roused. A himself to God, while the cordage You can't keep her." to be sure, in far Hayti, and since he floated, then worked his way confused clamor betrayed its bewil- overhead began to whine as the deck "Eh? Who's going to take her that time both of those sensations ashore behind the little point. Once derment, and before the swimmers rose. It was upon the Haytian's away?" interrogated the Haytian, had lost much of their novelty, for he felt the hard, smooth sand be- had won more than half-way to the lips to warn his pursuers off when quickly. "Bah! One man tried

certain strange exultance blazed mained unmarried. But the cere- boat she stared at him with that prayers, and in the silence that enmony was set. Inocencio had heard same fixed look, maintaining her sued the sea whispered at the bow His crew had long since come to the news upon his arrival three days position at his side. The moon and as the craft listed more heavily unrecognize this frenzy, and had they before, and had grudgingly bought the salt brine in his eyes played him der the full force of the wind. the forbidden shore, they would the money was intended for the have ventured no remark. As it wedding celebration, Markeens was

The big thatched roof with its It was four years now since he bark-floored loft stood on posts

a child crying querulously, and of a

she plunged into the jungle unhesi-At times he had railed at his crew tatingly. It puzzled him at first to of spiritless Jamaican "niggers," discover her reason for this unexand lusted for a following of his own pected sally, but soon he decided she ind-men with the French blood of must be bent upon some mission. his island in their yeins, men who Then, when he saw that she purrould follow where the moonlight posely avoided the village and was flickered. He had even gone so far, bending toward the open palm grove at one time, as to search the water- abreast of his anchorage, he knew fronts from Port Limon to Santa she must be going to a tryst. So Marta in quest of such fellows; he Markeena was the sentinel! That had winnowed the offscourings of fellow in the mahogany cayuca was the four seas gathered there, but her lover! When, at last, his quarwithout success. They were villain- ry emerged into the mysterious ous chaps, for the main part, crossed half-light under the high roof of

ready for any desperate venture; her. She gave the melanchely call but he could not find three helpers of the night bird that had sounded of sufficient hardihood to tamper in the breadfruit tree over his head with the San Blas virgins. Instead, earlier in the evening; then, seeing

back farthest into history, and it his great, bony hand upon her, his was he likewise who had threatened eyes blazing. She was deathly him with prompt discharge if he frightened, being little more than a

loyalty. He had no law. Even the cencio, the trader. Every night I tricks, else he might have fancied Inocencio could not fathorn the ished the hovering miasma, the name he went by was a fiction. have watched you at your work. I her to be half smiling, as if in some meaning of the subdued colloquy shore was of powdered coral sand, a

had meant many eleepless nights done him service. It was the strate breeze.

her side and swam with her face This time she answered by some tried it, but the blood is clean, so Haytian, boastfully; then, with a 668 FES, my dear Mrs. Elwes, but

the full strength of the trades had there myself to square things." beside the girl, the naked blade of nizing the futility of reproach or

The schooner's helmsman gave "But see here, now! This girl!

to let himself over the side of only the shadows saved him from before. Before his antagonist could were fully awake to the state of af- "Oh, yes! When her people com- his arm, took the trail out through man, simply, cry out twice he had slashed again. fairs, they threatened mutiny, manded her to jump from my the mangrove swamp. Caribbean was all agleam, save Tonight he crouched behind the The next instant he had seized the mulatto flung himself schooner she refused them. I did where the coral-reef teeth gnashed deck-house and ran his eye over the girl as she fled into the jungle. upon them so savagely that they not understand at the time, but by he went, and there flaunted himself wild with a fright that had never it into foam; inside, a sand beach, schooner in one final glance of cau- But she had found her voice at scattered to arm themselves with an' by she told me." He swelled before the men from down the yellow in the moonlight, curved east tion. He thrust his head through a last, and he was forced to muffle her whatever weapons lay at hand. his chest with pride. "I guess she coast. Here and there he strolled, before they could prevent him, he and west like a causeway until the loop of the leathern scabbard, and with his palm. When they were out Then they huddled amidship, rolling never seen so brave a man as me casting back their looks of hatred had gained his feet. He waved

ever wakened wild impulses in Cap- drift borne landward by the current, he raised his blade, grimly threat- cenclo called to one of his men and nose. Evidently other people's troutain Inocencio's breast. It was on Dewn past the village he swam, ening to call the sharks with her gave him the tiller, then took stand bles did not concern him. Recog-

he had lived fast and hard, and his neath his soles, he waited until a schooner, figures came running one of them called to the girl, bid- that, and-I killed him with my exile had plunged him into many cloud obscured the moon, and when along the shore. Inocencio cau- ding her leap. Inocencio heard the machete. Senor, you told me once evils. It was on such a night, also, the light broke through again he tioned the girl to hold her tongue, breath catch in her throat, but she that nobody had ever married a "Buenas dias, senor! You see, Cap-

"I don't believe it." "I'll bet you my wages-two hun-

dred pesos. Come! I'll show you." "You get out of here," said the American, roughly. "That's something I don't allow anybody to joke about." Inocencio strode through the

streets toward the swamp that lies behind the town, oblivious to the grilling midday heat that smote him from above, from the concrete walks beneath, and from the naked walls on every side. It was before the days of the American occupation. and the streets were nothing more than open cesspools, the stench from which offended sorely. Buzzards flapped among the naked children at play in the mire beside the sewer

Inocencio, whose last exploit was already a thing of gossip, received unusual attention, there being no color line in Colon town. White, yellow, and black women fawned upon him and bade him tarry, but he merely paused to listen or to fan their admiration by a word, then idled onward, pleased at the notice he evoked. Once fairly out of the pest-hole,

he threaded his way through the the island. Here the sea breeze ban- pests burdened the air.



"Swim!" he ordered, and, when she would have renewed the alarm, he raised his blade, grimly threatening

pon him, during which he haunted no outcry, for it takes strength to where they stood twin pools of held them back. owed him, inasmuch as the thick- no human strength could serve to need for haste, he paused to gloat Caribbean. Not until the San Blas word was law; when the Colombian

she made no move he let his caution taken many trips of the Espirita. ward stroke that once before had rite fell off slowly ahead of the "Si, senor. I suppose so."

clearly from the shore, did her motionless, staring at the dimming the sun. awoke to his presence and prepared Of course she knew him, for, while tribesmen realize the nature of the figures facing them, until the Espi- Captain Inocencio was a person of to greet him. But however loud the the San Blas law may banish wom- alarm. Then the vibrant turmoil rita, "wing and wing" ahead of the some importance here, for, besides music in the cantinas, however en, it cannot blind them, and she, suddenly stilled for the space of a trades, was no larger than a seaguil, his occupation as a trader, he exfierce the exaltation of the liquor in too, had studied him from conceal- full minute while the enormity of As yet they had not learned of the acted toll from a score or more of arrived from the hospital on the than go on enduring what had been him, however wild the orgy into ment. Although his words had the outrage made itself felt. They other tragedy hidden in the shadow lazy blacks. They were a lawless Point. which he plunged, he could never made no impression whatever upon drew together at the edge of the quite drown the faint song of San her, his grasp and the direction he sea, staring open-mouthed, amazed what lay weltering at the edge of a corners of the Indies, composed of weakly; Blas women wafted by the breath of was drawing her had at last trans- before they raised their blood-cry. trampled moonlit glade behind them, Jamaicans, 'Bajans, and Saint Lu-Four years this thing had grown she burst into life. But she made ment, their eyes upon the shore, and his new-found woman, could have ripe for such an occasional crafty "Certain."

"And you say she came wi

and, when he came driving in ahead Her voice had forsaken her utter- Not until he finally dragged her, shouted a warning, but, strangely grove of cocos palms, while a fleet strange exaltation akin to his own. among the San Blas men, so he litter of huts drowsed beneath a lay. But the Haytian blasted him she looked at him in terror. It was of the humming trade-winds, his ly, but she struggled weakly, so he panting, to the deck of the Espirita, enough, they made no answer. of cayucas lay moored to stakes inschooner laden with the treasures of tightened his grip until his fingers and her white-clad figure stood out They only crouched, with paddles side the breakers or bleaching in wall by his direction, and bound him claimed.

He shrugged his brawny shoulde

Straight to the Colon water-front

idlers in the neighborhood. As for his enemies, they kept their

slience. They bartered their stock and, having made their purchases, raised sail and scudded away down the coast whence they had come. In the months that followed Ino-

men when they came to town, but others had, for the woman's kindred seemed incapable of resentment. Gradually, also, he became accustomed to her presence, and spent much of his time among the women Bias woman, his arms flung outof Cash Street.

Chancing to meet the Senor Williams on the street some time later. tain Inocencio is still alive and the "Yes, Even the old Spaniards woman has not run away," said the

"Two hundred pesos!"

"You'll never have a child by her. They won't allow it. They'll get her and you, too, in ample time. I tell you, their blood is clean."

"Two hundred pesos that she brings me a San Blas halfbreed within two months," smiled the Mu- debit you with the balance." latto, insolently.

And Williams exclaimed: "I'll do t. It's worth two hundred 'silver' to see a miracle." Thereafter Inocencio gave over

beating the woman. Back at the little settlement beyond the swamp the coming event And there had been something in did not pass without comment, and Mrs. Elwes' past life which the colalthough the black women were kind onel had found out, three years beto their straight-haired neighbor, fore. she never made friends with them, 'nor did she ever accompany Inocen- husband had kept her in constant clo to town. On the contrary, she terror. Jim and she adored each seemed obsessed by an ever-present other. If ever he found out he dread, and whenever she heard that would leave her, cast her off; his her own people were near she con- anger would be terrible. She could again until they were gone.

cember moon, the expected came. It was the proof. And now the colwas that season when the rains onel had calmly raised his price fifty were at their heaviest, when rust per cent. and rot might be felt by the fingers. She looked at him in despair. The A gray mold had crept over all colonel looked back at her. He swamp toward the other shore of things indoors; a myriad of insect didn't want to drive her too far:

of the blacks was broken by the him just how far he could go. scream that issued from the hut of "I'll make it sixty-five hundred." Captain Inocencio. And then the he said, still smiling. "And that sistance of their leader had it not I don't receive the whole amou been for the echo of that awful within a month-" woman-cry hovering over the vil- "A month!" she gasped. lage like a shadow. It filled the air "A month," he smiled. "Come, my and hung there, saturating the dear madam, it is an easy thing to breathless night with such unnam- wheedle another fifteen hundred out able terror that the wakened chil- of that complacent husband of drep began to whimper and the yours." ragged bedding to keep it out.

night was dead again, save for the who trusted her so implicity. sudden patter of raindrops on the "I'll do my best," she answered thatches when the palm fronds desperately. stirred. Then, in time, they heard "Your very best," smiled the colthe voice of Inocencie himself curs- onel. "A nice little, juicy article ing faintly, as if from a great dis- that story would make, wouldn't it! tance. A light showed through the And that letter would look so well cracks of a hut, and Nicholas, the in print in our columns." least timid, emerged with a lantern "Oh, you are a brute!" sobbed held on high. He summoned the Mrs. Elwes. rest around him, then went toward "So many have called me," anthe black shadow of Inocencio's swered the colonel, bowing her out. dwelling with a score of white-eyed, She went out in a nightmare.

dusky faces at his shoulder. The door was down, and from the again, let him think her extravathrehold they could see what the gant, so long as she could wheedle front room contained. It was Nich- another fifteen hundred out of him. clas who, with clattering teeth and She was desperately in debt, all her nerveless fingers, dragged a blanket bills were unpaid, and the colonel from the bed and covered the wom- had her five thousand in bills upon an's figure. It was he who traced his desk. about with strips torn from the "Why, Jim, I—I—" mattress. Then he called for a But she could think of no lie

"Will m'sieu' do me a great ing, saw a dreadful look come upon

"M'sieu' is acquainted with the

"Will m'sley" le docteur please to tell him that Captain Inocencio has "Listen! In the room yonder, un-

eyed her complacently until he fell enough, he bared his yellow teeth in knew. How much have you paid Rather he became a panther, for in his caution was no cowardice, only his left side until the last moment, tage, beating his half-clad crew rage. "Didn't you like your job?" his men came to him breathlessly to he questioned.

Her busband laughed as fired the sam shad of his were in the town.

"How many?" queried Inocencie.

"There muss god."

"The many?" queried Inocencie.

"Blue the town."

The american tempered his indignant giare with a hint of curosity.

To work left side until the fast on the fact of him with the fiat of him machet. Ban blood cannot on the to groes about him when the doctor subscribers."

In the silence Inocencio rose to a sitting posture. His fierce eyes grew been there until this moment. Then, with a bravado that attracted all the them aside and went into the room of death, walking like a strong man A candle guttering beside the open window betrayed the utter nakedness of the place. With one movement of his great, bony hands he ripped the planks of the bed asunder and stared downward. Then he turned to the east and, raising his cencio seldom lost an opportunity arms above his head, gave a terriof showing himself to the San Blas ble cry. He began to sway, and even as the doctor leaped to save

It was Nicholas who told the priest that the French doctor would not let them move him, for he lay upon his face at the feet of the San ward like the arms of a cross.

MERE TRIBUTE

By MORRIS SCHULTZ

the price has gone up to seven thousand five hunand the sound of a throbbing surf San Blas rule, their husbands had and showed likewise that, had the at her savagely, but she remained you will see a San Blas halfbreed a mind to. I've been here ten years, dumbfounded. "You—you told me "Three years ago," smiled the

"-I've paid you that hundred a month all the time," she faltered

desperately. "Mere tribute," smiled the colonel leaning back in his chair. "I'll take the five thousand on account and

Mrs. Elwes stood there, a pitiful figure that might have melted a heart of stone, but the colonel's heart was made of alabaster, for he was the editor of a notorious society paper which made a specialty of scandal.

His threat of divulging it to her cealed herself and did not appear not bear the thought of it. She had saved every penny she could scrape And then, in the dark of the De- together to get that fatal letter that

he had his own reasons, also an Even the heavy animal slumber acute psychological sense which told

sound of such fighting! The ne- hundred a month until the debt is groes might have rushed to the as- paid. Otherwise—that is to say, if

women buried their heads in the She bit her lip. That was the hardest thing of all to hear, the At length they discovered that the thought of having to deceive Jim,

She must go to Jim, lie to him

the feeble voice to the wreck of a She started violently. She had room behind, and strove to lift Ino- nearly collided with a tall man who cencio out of the weiter in which he was coming along the passage. And

his breast when the French doctor sire to blurt out everything, rather mist, she saw his blue eyes harden-

> "You've been to see Colonel Law-He had her by the shoulder, tight, as in a vise, and she was sobbing desperately in the passage. "You've been in there!"

"Answer me!"