THE REVIEW, RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JUNE 13, 1895.

THE ROSE OF PARADISE.

CHAPTER XIV.-Continued.

"And do you trouble yourself about that ?" says I. "Sure he can be no friend of yours, for did I not myself see him knock out a parcel of your teeth with an iron belaying-pin ?"

"Yes, you did," says he, "but I bear him no grudge for that."

"Why," said 1, "then neither do I bean him a grudge, and I give you my word of honor that I mean no harm to him."

The fellow looked at me earnestly for a while. "You wants to know where Ned England is, don't you sir ?" said he. I nodded my head

"And I wants to be preserved from hanging don't I ?"

I nodded my nead again.

"Then look'ee, sir," says he, "we'll strike a bit of a bargain ; if you'll promise to say nothing to harm me and my shipmates, I'll tell you where to find Ned England."

I considered the matter for a while. The fellow had told me a straightforward story, nor did I doubt that he intended to break away from his evil courses. I may truly say that I verily believe I would not have betraved the three poor wretches under any circumstances. "Very well," said I. "I promise to keep my part of the bargain."

"Upon your honor ?" said he.

"Upon my honor," said I.

"Then, sir," said he, " you will find him at Port Louis, in the Mauritius," and he turned upon his heel and walked away.

CHAPTER XV.

I was filled with the greatest exultation by the knowledge which I had gained through the deserter from the pirates, for not only had I discovered the whereabouts of the one man in all of the world whom I felt well convinced had knowledge of the Rose of Paradise, but that man no longer had a crew of wicked and bloody I knew that my time for acting had arwretches back of him, but stood, like me, rived. upon his own footing. Therefore I determined that I would by some means or other either regain the treasure or perish in the attempt, for I would rather die than live a life of dishonor such as now seemed to lie before me. However, I plainly perceived that if I would recover the treasure I would have to escape from the ship by some means or other whilst we were upon our passage and near the isle of Mauritius, for if J lost time by going home and standing my examination, many things might occur which would lose the chance to me forever ; England might quit the Mauritius, or gather together another crew of pirates upon his own account, for with such a treasure as the Rose of Paradise he had it clearly in his power to do that and much more. At that time our English vessels were used to lay their course up and down the Mozambique Channel, and not along the eastern coast of Madagascar; for the Mauritius and other islands which lie to the north-east of that land belongs to the French of Dutch, as those in the Channel belong to us. Therefore it was necessary to my purpose that I should persuade Captain Croker to alter his course, so as to run down outside the island instead of through the Channel, for it was plain to see that even if I should be able to escape from the Lavinia to Juanna or to any of the coadjacent islands, I would be as far as ever from getting to Mauritius, which lieth many leagues away around the northern end of Madagascar.

waters of late.

presence of the rascals had so affected me having made a bargain for lodgings during gascar instead of through the Mozambique presently saw him fall asleep. Channel, for it is well to have plenty of If I had hoped to escape from meeting aboard fresh provisions."

whilst he was saying all this, but studious- time, and I could not but feel uneasy, for ly kept his eyes upon the plate before I had with me gold and silver money to cided at last, and that one of tho greatest me. happenings in all my life was soon to come upon me.

In two days, as Captain Croker had pre- where I sat. dicted, we dropped anchor in the harbor that night, my mind being so engrossed Portuguese, or what ?" upon that which I had undertaken to do. up a very decent float or life-preserver, to escape exposure. for I had need of some such aid in my expedition, not being a very expert swimmer. lishman." In all this time I had said nothing to Captain Croker, nor he to me ; but about seven o'clock, it being at that time pretty direction of the Lavinia. dark, he came to me where I stood by the rail of the poop-dock.

"Jack." said he, in a low voice, "are you still in the mind for carrying this thing through ?"

- "Yes, I am," I said.
- "To-night ?" says he. "To-night," says I.
- "Then God bless you !" said he, and he

those pirates who had much infested these | entered into talk with me, but I soon gave him to understand that I had no appetite "Why," says Captain Croker, "the for conversation just at this time ; so after

that I have determined to alter the course the night, he withdrew to a bench in the of my vessel, and to run outside of Mada- farther corner of the room, where I

sea-room either to fight or to run from my own countrymen, I soon discovered these wicked rogues. So now, if the wind that I was to be sadly disappointed, for holds good, seeing we are such friends with before I had been in the place a quarter of the Frenchmen in these peaceful days, I an hour I found that at least half the propose stopping at the Mauritius to take fellows around the table were Englishmen. They were the most villanous, evil-looking Captain Croker did not look at me set of men that I had beheld in a long

him, and presently rose and left the table. the value of between ten and eleven As for me, I sat with my heart beating gnineas, and by their muttering together within my breast as though it would burst and looking in my direction now and then asunder, for I saw that my fate was de- I knew that they were talking concerning

> Presently one of the fellows got un from the table and came over to the place

"Look'ee, messmate," said he, seating off Port Louis at about three o'clock in himself upon the corner of the table beside the afternoon. I ate but little supper me; "be ye English, French, Dutch,

At first I was of a mind to deny being We lay about half a mile from the shore an Englishmen, but on second thoughts I the water in the bay being very calm and perceived that it would be useless to do still. I had procured four large calabash so, there being the scum of so many gourds, with which I had made shift to rig people at that place that I could not hope

"Why, shipmate," said I, "I'm an Eng-

"Where do ye hail from ?" said he. "Over yonder," said I pointing in the

"Did ye come aboard of the craft that ran into the harbor to-day ?"

I nodded my head.

"Did ye come ashore without leave ?" I nodded my head again.

The others had all laid down their cards and were looking at us by this time, and I knew not what would have been the upshot of the matter had not the door just

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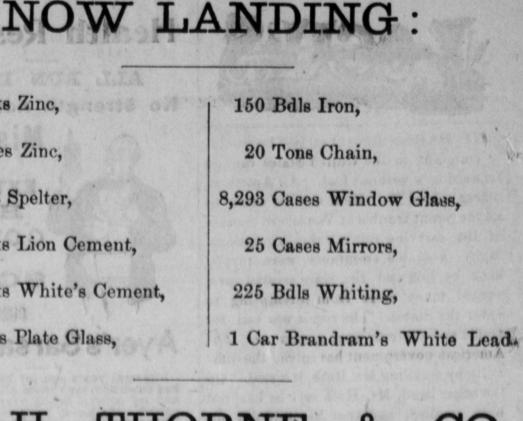
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of it, and confide the whole plan to Captain Croker from beginning to end, only I would say nothing as to how I had gained my knowledge of England's whereabouts, for I would not break the promise which I had given to the deserter, as told above.

As no time was to be lost in following out the plans which I had determined upon. I requested that I might have speech with Captain Croker that very night. told him everything concerning the affair from beginning to end, adding nothing and omitting nothing. Although so old and so well- ried a friend, he was cast into the utmost depths of wonder and amazement at my audacity in proposing that he should alter the course of his vess l, and at my boldness in daring to tell him my plans for escaping from the restraint under which I had been placed. He questioned me closely concerning many matters; as to what lel me to think that England was the present pussessor of the jewel; as to hew I proposed to proceed after I had | -From this I knew that it was an ordinwould give him no satisfaction. nor where all these questions tended, and easy with the lingo. So into the place I state of uncertainty, not knowing how glass of grog and something to eat. Captain Croker inclined, nor what might | There were perhaps half a score of rough be his feeling in regard to me. several days, in which time I knew not flame of a bit of rope's end stuck in a calawhat to think, but waited for some sign bash of grease. They laid down their from him. One evening, however, the cards when I came in, and stared at me in whole matter was resolved in a most simple a very forbidding fashion. However, I natural and unexpected manner.

turned upon his heel and went below, and fellow come stumping into the place.

a swimmer or a moving man, but only a body floating upon the water as though though the d-l was basting him already." dead ; moreover, at night they are asleep or in deep water, for they are not often the fellows at the table. seen upon the surface after darkness has fairly tallen.

around and saw that no one else was nigh upon the deck. I took my calabash gourds and entered the boat that hung tongue and a cursing ?" from the davits astern. Taking a hint of line by which I might lower myself into the water, for if I had dropped with a splash I would have been discovered. which I wrapped in a piece of tarpaulin, together with my tinder-box and flint and steel, all of which I secured upon my head the lee shore with an empty hold." and having slipped the cord which bound the calabashes under my arms, I slid down

the line into the water astern. which set towards it, and directing my to tell me everything. course by the lights which glimmered beach, and built a fire, whereby I dried my clothes. Then, having put on my shoes dry by the tarpaulin, I walked up the beach in the direction of the scattered row of houses which, the moon having now quarter of a mile distant.

branches, smeared over with mud which crack of an ill-hung shutter. I went very low tone. around to the front of the hut, which seemed larger and better made than others 1 had seen. Above the door hung an illmade sign, and the moon shining full 1. upon it, I could plainly see a ruce picture

gave my hand a hearty grip. Then he then been flung open and a great rough

"Well," he bawled, in a loud, hoarse voice, "poor Ned is on his way to h-1 I had not much fear of sharks, for I had hot-foot to-night. I just came by his seen enough of those cowardly creatures stew-hole over yonder. Pah !"-here the to know that they rarely or never attack fellow spat upon the floor-"he was screeching and howling and yelling as

"Who's with him now ?" says one of "Who's with him ?" says the other. in

a mightily contemptuous tone. "Why, After the captain left me I looked d'ye think that anybody would be such a -fool as to stay with him now. with nothing to be got for it but the black

"But what I say is this," said an illfrom Captain Leach, I had secured a coil looking one-eved fellow : "he's not the man to serve his trade for all these years and nothing to show for it. It's all very well to say that Jack Mackra shot the Having removed my shoes and stockings, hoops off his luck ; but you mark my words, he's got a cable out to windward somewhere, and he ain't goin' to run on

I was so amazed to hear my own name spoken that I knew not at first whether to believe that which mine ears had heard Having committed my life into the or whether they had heard aright. Then keeping of Providence, I struck out boldly it was as though a sudden light flashed for the shore, being aided by a current upon me. I needed not the next speech

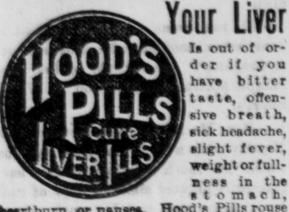
"Well," says one of the fellows, "even faintly in the distance. So I reached the if so be as Ned England is going to smell brimstone before this time to-morrow, I for one see no reason to lose our game. and stockings, which had been kept pretty Come along, Blake," he sang out to the fellow who had been speaking to me, and who rejoined the others upon being bidden. I was in a great ferment of spirits at all So I determined to make a clean breast risen, stood out very plain at about a this, for I perceived very clearly that Englaid was mightily sick, and perhaps dying I found the town to consist of a great with that dangerous fever known as the straggling collection of low one-story "black tongue," from which it is a rare buildings, mostly made of woven palm- thing for a man to recover with his life. I observed that the fellow who had lately had dried in the sun. At this time it come into the ordinary did not join in the could not have been much less than nine game along with the rest, but sat looking o'clock, and all was dark and silent. I on. By-and-by I contrived to catch his went aimlessly here and there, not know- eye as he glanced in my direction, whereing whither to direct my steps, until at upon I beckoned to him, and he came last I caught sight of a little twinkle of over to the table where I sat. Only a few light, which I perceived came through a words passed between us, and those in a

> "Is Ned England all alone ?" said I. "Yes," said he.

"Will you show me where he is ?" said

"He shot a quick look at me from under of a heart with a crown above it, and his brows. "How much will you give ?"

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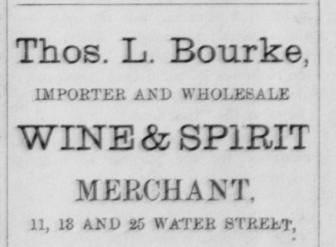
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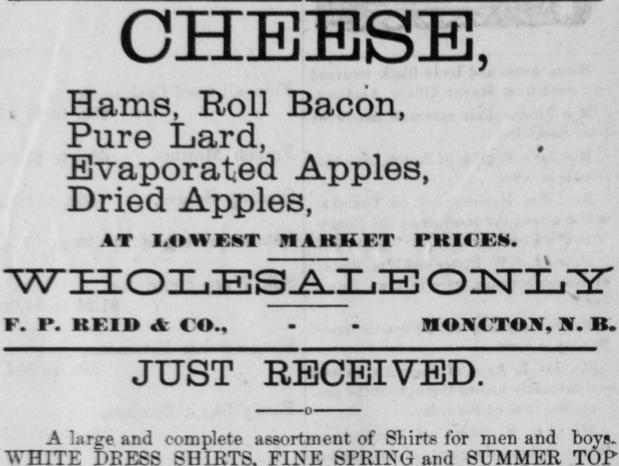


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At that time we were about seventy or at a table at some little distance, and byeighty leagues north of the island Mada- and-by the landlord, a little pot-bellied, gascar All the passengers being at supper red-faced Frenchman, brought me a glass with Captain Croker at the head of the of hot rum and a dish of greasy stew table, conversation began to run upon seasoned with sarlie. He would have

underneath, written in great sprawling letters .-

" LE CœUR DU ROY."

escaped to the land ; and as to how I had ary, at which I was greatly rejoiced, and become informed of the pirate's where- also what suited me very well was to find abouts, concerning which last particular I that it was French, for I had no mind to fall in with English people just then, and I knew not what he had in his mind, I knew enough of French to feel pretty by and by left the cabin, though in a sad stepped, as bold as brass, and ordered a

ill-looking fellows gathered around a dirty Nor was my uncertainty lessened for table playing at cards by the light from a paid no attention to them, but sat down

"A guinea," said I. " I'll do it."

" When ?"

"To-morrow morning."

That was all that passed, and then he moved away and joined the others at the table

The next morning I purchased a good | following lots of land large pistol from mine host, for I saw that with such companions as I was like to fall in with I would need some sort of weapon to protect myself. Having loaded it with a brace of slugs, I thrust it in my belt, and then stepped out of the door, where I found my acquaintance of the night before waiting for me.

"Are you ready?" said I.

"Yes," said he, "I am ; but I must see single step.

guinea out in the palm of my hand. When he saw it his eyes shone like coals and his fingers began to twitch. "Hand

(Continued on Page 5.)

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