

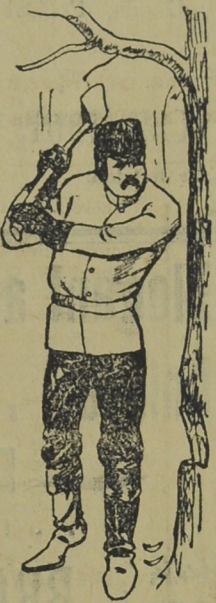
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John Topp, Pirate.

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

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(Continued.)

CHAPTER XXX.

The burning circle of sun baked sea from which we had escaped was strangely like a vast frying pan, and now, having got out of that, we were perilously near finding ourselves in the fire. Don Miguel was carrying us to Spain to the torture, and even his vengeful cruelty could invent for us no more malignant fate.

Had he known that the plunder of the galleon, together with other booty, lay snugly hidden on a lonely island under the guard of a crippled dotard, doubtless his eastward voyage would have been broken. He would have been charmed, too, now that the tables were so effectually turned, to renew his acquaintance with the old man, his former jailer, for thus the auto da fe he pictured would have another actor. But he believed that all our gains lay fathoms deep on the sea bottom with the ill fated Scourge, and we would not agitate his well balanced mind by deceiving him.

Don Miguel did not put us in irons in the hold, though some of his underlings suggested it. No; he remembered the time when he was our unwilling hewer of wood and drawer of water, and he prepared to pay back some of his debts in kind. We were made to ply our craft as mariners whenever our services were wanted, and for the rest of the time we were the slaves of any one who chose to command us.

Every dirty job in the ship fell to the Englishmen's share, and a curse or a blow was the payment. And though the gorge of one of us would now and again rise and a mutinous refusal tremble on his tongue, his mates would bid him knuckle under, grin if he could and bide his time.

"A coward's blows never forget their father," Willie Trehalton would mutter prophetically.

"Aye, uncle, an curses come home to roost," his nephew Job would chuckle in reply.

Outwardly no band of unfortunates was ever more numbed by despair, more hopelessly reconciled to an irrevocable fate. To the dons' eyes we were meek and submissive as Indians, going about our labors mechanically, and, if we did not show great interest in each task, at least we performed it effectively. We were careful not to court suspicion by excess of zeal, while we avoided additional tyranny by steady obedience.

But we meant to escape. The carrack should never set us on Spanish ground. We would fire her powder room sooner, and perish with the rest

of the crew in one overwhelming noisome. In the meanwhile we lived in hope that the chapter of accidents would unravel the coil in which we had entangled ourselves.

The pilot left the carrack at the most easterly point of Trinidad, and then, bidding goodbye to domestic navigation, we set out on the ocean voyage. For two days we beat, tack and tack, against easterly winds, sagging to leeward like a haystack, and making hardly any headway. Then for three days the wind chopped round fair, and we sped easily along our course. But after the third morning had passed the barren plain of ocean began to haze over, and as the thickness increased the breeze died away, till at last the carrack lay motionless in the calm of a dense fog.

Night came, and the gray twilight of the afternoon changed to inky blackness. All of us were asleep, tired out with the exertions of the day and glad to snatch a little rest.

Suddenly Alec and I were aroused by a warning touch of Willie Trehalton's hook.

"Listen!" he whispered. A strange sound came to us out of the blackness, a sound that was half wail, half howl, but wholly weird and awful.

"A water pixy," said I, trembling.

"Sea wolves," said one of the men, who had raised himself on his elbow to listen. "They're scenting prey. We're in for a fearful storm, or they wouldn't be there. Sea wolves never hunts without a kill."

The sound made itself heard again—a "Wa-a-o-o-w" rising doleful in the still night air and dying away into nothing with unutterable mournfulness.

"A water pixy beyond doubt," said I again.

"A water fiddlestick!" replied the boatswain contemptuously. "That cry comes from no creature what breathes through gills. It's my old cat, an that's his night song. D'you think I shouldn't know his voice among a thousand? Old Nep—you'll mind him, Master Topp?"

I shook my head. "The night mist has got into your brain, Willie. You must be mistaken here," I said.

"Mebbe it's Nep's ghost that's hailing us!"

(To be Continued.)

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There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, on Saturday, the Eighteenth Day of January next, at the hour of twelve o'clock noon, pursuant to the directions of a Decree of the Supreme Court in Equity, made Tuesday, the fifteenth day of October last, in a cause therein pending wherein Alexander Calder is plaintiff, and William Wilson and William H. Murray are defendants, with the approval of the undersigned Referee in Equity, the mortgaged premises described in the plaintiff's Bill as:

"All that piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the City of Fredericton in the County of York, bounded as follows: Beginning on the southeasterly side of the southeasterly street called Sunbury Street, at the northeasterly corner of a certain gore or triangular lot of land granted by letters patent bearing date the eighteenth day of January, 1800, to one Duncan McLeod, thence running along the said southeasterly side of said street south forty-four degrees sixty-five feet, thence upon or following a straight line towards or in the direction of the River St. John until it meets the easterly side line of the Block or Waterloo Row so called, in prolongation of the easterly line of the lot of land granted to said Duncan McLeod, at a distance of thirty-eight feet from the lower or easterly corner thereof, thence running along Waterloo Row north to the northeasterly corner of the said triangular lot or gore aforesaid, thence west one chain and forty-six links to the place of beginning, comprehending the said lot of land granted to the said McLeod and a lot of land adjoining on the lower side thereof, conveyed to the said Duncan McLeod by the Governor and Trustees of the College of New Brunswick by deed poll bearing date the first day of August, 1803, and also all that certain lot of land inclosed with the parcel of land before described and situate between Sunbury Street and Waterloo Row, beginning at the northeasterly angle of lot number 12 granted to the said McLeod, thence running by the magnet north two degrees, westerly ninety links, thence north forty-three degrees west thirty-four links, thence south forty-six degrees forty-five minutes west one hundred and seventy-five links, thence south forty-six degrees forty-five minutes west one hundred and seventy-five links, thence south eighty-eight degrees east one hundred and forty-six links to the place of beginning, being the same lands and premises conveyed to the said defendant William Wilson by Arthur Hally and wife by deed dated the 2nd day of November, 1880."

For terms of sale and other particulars apply to plaintiff's solicitor.

Dated the eighth day of November, A. D. 1901.

ALBERT J. GREGORY, Esq.,
Plaintiff's Solicitor.

HAVELOCK COY.,
Referee in Equity for the
County of York.

Nov. 13, 4td

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