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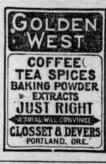
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Author of "The Count at Harvard," etc.

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very far from great cities on the Atlanfrom Boston, and when you reach the proper station you alight and climb into a countryman's wagon, and he drives you through the pines by a twisting, sandbuilt road to Alastair. You will know it the chest bare, because you can go no farther, unless you choose to drive into the waves.

Few people come to Alastair. Most of the travelers in this part of the world turn off about a mile inland from the ways a magnetic figure, and I never beach and go on for another mile and a could resist the call of mystery to fight half to the Penguin Club. The latter is beside him. full of New Yorkers who con pines and the sen to hunt and fish and forget Wall Street and Fifth Avenue. They forget it by keeping close together, and dressing for dinner, and dancing

every other night. Alastair itself is only a beach between two great headlands. From the end where my cottage stands, snugly hid in the pines on the edge of the dunes, the beach stretches smooth and white to a little land-locked harbor at the farther end. Sit on my porch and look down along the sands to the east and you will see a reef of rocks shaped like the letter U that closes in a little salt water lake with the aid of a distant cliff. It is not quite a lake, rather a small inland sea, for the tides have room to ebb A ship is settled into the sands of this sea, settled upright, so that one may walk the decks, and I good place to sketch, and I can leave my paints and canvas in the cabin.

I stumbled across Alastair when I was looking for a quiet place in which to I found the dilapidated cottage, write. camped in it for a week, and fell so much in love with the beach that I went to town, bought the house and part of the woods, and moved in. Charles, the manwho had served my father before me, demurred at first, but finally gave in, and turned himself into cook, housemaid, and

valet for my sake, From my balcony I can see the distant rocks of the little inland sea and, standing up above them, the high sides of the ship, and its single remaining broken mast pointing straight to the heavens. Sometimes the stars seem to outline where the missing spars and sails should be, and on a bright night I can haif close my eyes and fancy that I see the rigging lighted and lanterns burning on the quar-

ter-deck. There is history hidden in that battered hulk. She is no ordinary vessel, and may once, for all I know, have been a pirate craft. She has the long clipper lines of swiftness, and her high, bulging bow is of a type long past. When I as to her history, but the oldest farmer could tell me only that she had always been there so far as he knew, and disthrough, I descended into the cabin. It my knees.

was mildewed with damp and water, but You know Alastair? No—how should in time, by bailing and letting the sun ou? Very few people know it, and I in, I dried it out and found quite a habhave done my best to keep the secret to liable apartment, furnished with table myself. The place lies, however, not so and chairs and a row of bunks along the seaward side. Whatever there had been tic coast. You take a train northward that was portable the first wreckers must years before have carried off. All that was left was a heavy oaken chest, stud-ded with brass nalls, now greenish-yellow, and when I broke the lock I found

My fancy loved to play about the ship. Often I dreamed of her and of a man who should come up out of the sea and tread her deck again. He was al-

CHAPTER II.

It was the most beautiful August that I remembered. The air was clear as a bell, and day after day the sun rose on a tranquil world and smiled at it for joy. Every morning at breakfast I would say to Charles, "Did you ever know such weather, Charles?" and he would answer, "No, sir, I never did, sir," every evening at supper I would say, "It has been a glorious day, Charles, hasn't it?" and he would answer. "It has, sir, indeed it has, sir." My family servant made a perfect echo.

The afternoon on which I finished the first half of my book I sat for some time on the porch outside my den, smoking. I was too serene to stir. I watched the gulls circle and skim above the pine crowned cliff, and the lazy waves, rising that one may walk the decks, and I occasionally into sparkling white caps often go there of an afternoon when the lift their heads and duck again like play tide is low and climb on board. It is a ful dolphins. The tide was coming in I could mark the great wet circles on the beach as it advanced, now receding for a moment, but quickly recovering the lost ground and marching on, steadily winning over the yellow sands. It would be high-tide by sunset or a little after; everything was setting in from sea to land; the salt smell was coming strongly on the east wind.

About 5 o'clock I shut the door of my cottage and started down the beach, conscious of no further plan than to board the ship and, possibly, catch something of the late afternoon color for my canvas. Now and again I stopped to watch small flocks of sand-snipe scurry over the wet, glistening sands, now to watch a wave recede and leave a path of opales-cent pebbles in its wake. There were jewels for all the world and to spare as long as the water bathed the stones.

So, walking leisurely, I came in tim to the far end, and looked across the harboring rocks to the ship. To my surprise, a young woman stood on the deck, and fluttering from a splinter of the mast was a white handkerchief. She was looking across at me, her hands shading her eyes from the sunset glitter at my back, bow is of a type long past. When I and as she saw me look up she waved first came to Alastair I made inquiries and as she saw me look up she waved first came but the oldest farmer her hand beckoningly. The easy path to the ship lay through a small break where the rocks joined the cliff, but this missed the subject as of no importance.

The people of the near-by country appeared never to have boarded the casta- to the skipper, I climbed over the near I felt the joys of Crusoe when I est rocks and stood on the edge of the way. I felt the joys of Crusos when I led tooks and stood on the edge of the first climbed on her deck. The name little inland sea, Sure enough, the tide was gone, long ago washed out by the in rising had covered the causeway to was gone, long ago washed out by the in rising had covered the causeway to sea; the deck was bare, and the top of the forecastle choked with sand. I brought a shovel and dug away the rambrought a fixed grant of the barbor, like the bowl of a flooded fountain. The water was not yet deep; it barely covered the path by which the explorer had come, and even off the rocks in front of it it was scarcely up to the support. I descended into the cabin. It

The woman of the ship called, "I'm marconed. I came by the path and forgot all about the tide. What shall I 60?" She pointed towards the way she had come, but I was in rough clothes and quite used to a wetting, so I waded in and, crossing the shallow bowl, quickly scrambled on to the high deck. I stood up dripping and laughing.

"So you thought you'd go for a sail," I asked, "but didn't think you'd sail so far from land?"

The girl-I saw now that she couldn't be more than 20—looked quinzically at me for a second, then smiled, and finally laughed.

"It was such a very real ship," she said, "that I couldn't resist the call. I fell asleep sitting against the gunwale, and when I woke up the water was over the path—not very far over, but quite enough to ruin these forever." She pointed to her kid slippers, "I was growing desperate when I saw you on the beach."

I was studying the slippers; there was no question but that the salt water would ruin them. She inspected them

"It was very foolish of me to wear them, but I had no idea of going far when I left the club. The first thing I knew. I caught a glimpse of the water and then I forgot the slippers and walked on until I came to that cliff, and from on until I came to that cliff, and from there I saw this little harbor and this boat, and I couldn't resist that, could I?" I shook my head. "Nobody could re-sist it."

"I had just about come to the point of taking them off and wading in," she went on, and then finished, "when I sighted you."

"I can go away again," I suggested.
"No," she said slowly; "I'd rather you didn't do that. There must be some other way out of it."

"There are several other ways," I an-vered. "I've often studied the problem from this very deck."

I thought she looked a little bit sur-orised. "Do you often find people ma-rooned here—girls, I mean?" "No, but I've often wondered what I should do if I did. To tell the truth, I've never found any one here before, but the ship looks as if she ought to be in-

habited. She's a good ship, and once belonged to a pirate chief." "How do you know that?" she asked "By the oaken chest below-deck. It has the pirate look, though there's nothing in it."

"Yes," she said; "I made an exploring trip and I found the chest."

"Don't you agree with me, then?" Again there came that quizzical look in her eyes, and then the smile, "Yes," she said; "it must have belong-

ed to a pirate." She stopped short and the smile spread from her lips to her eyes. "Shail I tell you a secret? When I fell asleep here an hour ago I dreamed of pirates, of a real old-fashioned buccaneer who came up out of the cabin fully armed, pistols in his pockets and in his hands and a pistol clenched in his teeth. The funny part of it is that be was exceedingly polite to me. Do you ever have such foolish dreams as that?"

"Often; a buccaneer calls on me every other week. I'm only waiting for chance to ship with one. I think their ghosts must still inhabit Alastair." The girl's hand stole up to capture

some loose strands of hair, and for the first time I noted the fine spun gold in "Alastair?" she repeated. "Oh, so this

is the beach of Alastair—and you——?" She paused. "You must be the man they told me about at the club-you live in a cottage at the far end of the beach, and write books, and never come out of your

yonder is my home." I pointed west-ward to where the tip of my balcony showed between the dunes.

"What a beautiful little world!" she said, and then, a moment later, "but how lonely! Who named the place Alastair?

"I don't know. It's always been called that, apparently." "It's a lovely name. And what do you call the ship?"

"Oh, just the Ship. Her other name disappeared years and years ago."
"The Ship of Alastair. And do you sometimes come on board of her to

times I come here to paint. I keep my things in the cabin.' "Yes, I found them," she said. "You see, I know a great deal more about you than you think.

"No. I have a den for that. Some

(To be continued.)

Left-Handed Barbers.

"Of course left-handed persons are scarce anyhow." said the man who carries his habits of observation even into the barber's chair, according to the Washington Post, "but they are mighty scarce among barbers; in fact, I have seen but two or three in my experi-

"But you are sure to notice it when you do find one. He does just as efficient work, but it is the way he does it that attracts your notice.

"The barber as a rule stands at the right of the customer while shaving him, making little trips to the back and to the left only when necessary. Naturally, I suppose, the left-handed barber does just the opposite; he stands most of the time at your left.

"For that reason you won't find a left-handed barber in the middle of a line of barbers. His chair has to stand at one end so that he won't bump into the right-handed one next to him.
"Like most left-handed persons his

right is more dexterous than the left hand of right-handed persons usually is. He shaves you with either hand, but prefers the left. He strops a razor just as a right-handed one does, however, and that is about the only point of similarity."

. No Walking. Mrs. Psmith—Your husband hasn't done much walking since he bought his auto, has he?

Mrs. Kjones-I should say not. He got thrown out and broke his leg the first time he tried to run it.-Cleveland Leader.

In point of geographical elevation Madrid is the highest city in Europe.



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"Not a bit. She's got it."-Baltimore American.

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