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ON CRUSOE'S ISLAND.
WHERE ROBINSON AND HIS MAN FRIDAY LIVED.

Boston Man's Visit to the Little Dot on the Map of the Pacific Ocean Made Famous by the Charming Pen of Alexander De Foe.

John Burns, of Boston, has been on a journey to Juan Fernandez, the famous island home of Robinson Crusoe. He saw many of the places on the island that were frequented by Alexander Selkirk, and where he fortified himself against real and imaginary enemies. Mr. Burns took several pictures of the more notable places and strolled about the island, even climbing the high mountains. It is a rockribbed, rather desolate possession of the Chilean Government, 400 miles off the Chilean coast.

"There is a good little harbor on the west side of the strange island," said Mr. Burns, "and it is here that the prosperous and contented inhabitants are located. The colony consists of eighty Germans and some natives of Chili, ruled by Alfred Boid, who is Governor of Juan Fernandez, and receives \$100 a month.

"The bay is pretty and alive with lobsters, mackerel, and yellowtail. The yellowtail are from one to two feet long, and, like the mackerel, are fine eating. As for the lobsters, I do not believe there are any finer ones anywhere. There is a small cannery on the island, where some of the fish are put up for shipment. A schooner comes in every twenty days from Valparaiso and gets some of the fish and lobsters, and also, when required, takes away some of the wild game. Beyond the visits of this craft the island is as lonely as when De Foe wrote of it, or when it was the resort of the Spanish buccaneers.

"I visited the large cave where Robinson Crusoe made himself safe from savage barbarians, as he supposed, when he discovered the footprints of Friday in the sands. The cave runs back into the mountains for at least fifty feet. It does not start from the water, but has its mouth somewhat inland. It is largely grown over with bright green leaves and is attractive even to this day. There are other smaller caves near at hand.

"The island is covered with wild goats, wild donkeys, and wild pigs. The natives, odd to relate, catch the goats in the same way that it is reported that Selkirk did.

"The only fruit that I saw there were the fig and the guinea. The fig trees are numerous and grow from fifteen to thirty feet high. I think that almost any kind of fruit would flourish there. "Altogether the island is a strange little principality, eighteen miles long and six wide, with mountains reaching to a height of 3,000 feet. It is pretty well watered, and is greener and more attractive every way than I had expected to find it. The harbor and the little colony on the shore are very picturesque. The water is as blue as indigo most of the time, and this, combined with a clear sky and soft air, and the singing of birds, makes it a unique place, and altogether one particularly fitted for the hero of the distant island, who became the theme of De Foe's pen."

PAUL JONES AND THE DUCHESS.
Great Captain Was Not to Be Outdone in French Courtesy.

The Duchess of Chartres was an enthusiast in the cause of American liberty, and a warm friend of its great naval champion, Paul Jones, whom she nicknamed the "Untitled Knight of the Sea." The Duchess was a royal Princess and a very great lady, and Captain Jones was a sailor, self-educated, and the son of a Scotch gardener, but in the exchange of gifts and compliments which, according to the custom of the day in France, attended their friendship he was not to be outdone. At a luncheon which she gave just before he sailed from France in the Ranger, on that famous cruise of his which carried the war to the very shores of Britain, it was the good fortune of Paul Jones to share in a conversation touching a French naval engagement in which the grandfather of the Duchess had borne a conspicuous part, and to defend and explain his maneuvers on that occasion—showing a knowledge of every ship and every captain engaged, and winning on the spot the ardent personal adherence of Mme. de Chartres. At the close of the feast she presented to him a valuable watch which had been her grandfather's. Taken by surprise, the American captain nevertheless accepted it with a grace that charmed the courtly company, promising in return, if fortune favored him, he would some day "lay an English frigate at her feet."

It was a daring boast, but in A. C. Buell's recent biography of Paul Jones it is related how he kept it. Within two years occurred the marvelous victory of the Bon Homme Richard over the Serapis, concerning which the victor wrote the Duchess a letter, ending: "The enemy surrendered at 35 minutes past 10 p. m., by your watch, which I consult only to fix the moment of victory."

That was a phrase to delight a society that reveled in pretty phrases, and the Duchess was amply satisfied. When Paul Jones reached Paris she gave a grand banquet in his honor. Just before it ended he reminded her of her gift and his promise. A servant was sent to his room and returned with a long leather case, which the Duchess took amid the exclamations and eager curiosity of the company. "Your royal highness perceives the

impossibility of keeping my promise in kind," explained the Knight of the Sea, smiling. "The English frigate proved to be a forty-four on two decks, and she is now at Lorient with French colors flying. The best I can do toward keeping my word of two years ago is to place in your dainty hands the sword surrendered to me by one of the bravest of men—the sword of Captain the Hon. Richard Pearson of his Britannic majesty's late ship, the Serapis."—Youth's Companion.

THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN.
Alfred Beit, Whose Fortune Exceeds \$1,000,000,000.

Rumors from London say that an American lady is to marry the richest man in the world. The lady is Mrs. Adolf Landenburg, widow of a New York banker who was drowned at sea a few years ago, and who is said to be one of the most beautiful women in metropolitan society. Her private fortune amounts to about \$500,000. She is tall and stately, is fond of fox hunting and is a superb horsewoman. She has spent much time in London, where she met her affianced, Alfred Beit, a German.

Mr. Beit's wealth is said to exceed ten hundred millions. He is the brains and the biggest part of the diamond trust, and is the principal owner of the famous De Beers diamond mines at Kimberley and of the gold mines further north. He is a partner of Cecil Rhodes, but that astute Englishman is only an incident in the diamond line when compared with Beit. Rhodes



MRS. LANDENBURG. ALFRED BEIT.

was a late comer, and the ingenious German had all but completed the work of organization when Cecil put in his appearance at Kimberley.

Mr. Beit is 47 years old. His father was a well-to-do merchant in Hamburg twenty-five years ago, and Alfred was a clerk in the concern. About that time the South African excitement began to grow important, and the Hamburg merchant was asked for large credits by business men near the diamond fields. Alfred Beit was then 22, shrewd, capable, cautious, and precocious. His father sent him out to South Africa to investigate the general state of business there and determine whether the trade demanded the credits and whether the credits were good.

Young Beit saw and appreciated the situation. He began by buying up the scattered and conflicting claims. To accomplish this work he was liberally backed by his father and his father's friends in Germany. The result was the great De Beers Company, which for many years has paid 5 1/2 per cent on its stock. It is capitalized at \$40,000,000. Next came the gold discoveries, and here, too, Beit was the first organizer in the field.

Mr. Beit is the poorest-looking rich man on earth. His clothes are so very plain as to be almost shabby. He never discusses his trade with outsiders, but beneath his mild and apparently diffident exterior is a capacity for business unsurpassed by that of any man in the great commercial countries of Christendom. His wealth has been estimated at \$1,000,000,000, but this takes no account of the few barrels of diamonds he keeps stowed away for fear of lowering prices.

He Would Not Be Beaten.

"Talking about extraordinary things," said one first-class passenger to another on an Atlantic liner. "I once swallowed the contents of eighteen eggs at a sitting. That takes some beating."

"Which I can give it," returned the other. "On one occasion, let me tell you, I got outside the inner meaning of no less than twenty-four eggs, sir; think of that!"

"Ah! I knew—I had a sort of presentiment that you would beat me if I told my tale first. But are you sure of those twenty-four eggs? I may not have heard you quite distinctly. It's a lot, you know."

"Yes; and I did it, fairly and squarely. Twenty-four hens' eggs at a single sitting."

"Oh, I see," said the man who had spoken first, and he said it in the manner of one who has solved an incomprehensible problem. "Hens' eggs! I thought you meant ostriches' eggs, the same as the eighteen I swallowed!"—Modern Society.

Ready to Start.
A lecturer in a California town had in his audience a lank young man who drank in every word with flattering avidity, and whose eyes bulged with delight at the pictures thrown on the screen.

As the evening wore on, the lecturer got into the habit of looking at this entranced listener, and after a while had almost the feeling that the lecture was intended for him alone.

This evidently was the idea which possessed the lank young man as well, for when the lecturer said: "And now I will ask you to go with me two miles into the jungle," he sprang to his feet.

"Anywhere you say, mister," he shouted, with kindling eyes, "if you can just hold on long enough for me to cut home and get my gun!"

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