

# The Pirate of Alastair

By RUPERT SARGENT HOLLAND

Author of "The Count at Harvard," etc.

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## CHAPTER XIV.—(Continued.)

Duponceau and I lifted the chest between us, and as silently as we had entered the woods our party of four withdrew from them. When we came to the edge we halted, and after a few whispered words turned towards the shelter of the cliff. We were some quarter down it when from the pines at our back came a loud halloo. Almost simultaneously a man sprang out of the shadows before us, and called "Stop!"

"Run!" said Rodney, and like a football player, lunged, lantern and all, straight at the man's knees. The two went down in a heap, and the man's revolver went off without harm.

"Run, Mr. Felix!" cried Charles, and I saw him jump at the struggling men and pull Islip free.

Duponceau and I ran, caring nothing for shelter now, but making straight for the ship. The enemy must have numbered half a dozen. There were cries behind us, and a bullet whizzed into the cliff on our left. Another shout, and we knew they were in full pursuit, with Rodney and Charles acting as our rear-guard.

Luckily the chest was not heavy, and when we came to the rocks we could scramble over them without delay. Into the water we plunged, and, reaching the side of the ship, heaved the chest on board. Then we scrambled up, dripping and we pulled our rear-guard over the side.

Another splash, and I fired straight down into the water. At the shot the enemy retreated, and, cursing, took himself back to the rocks where his friends stood, a mark against the sky.

"We'll get that pirate!" one of the men called. There was silence on the ship. More threats and curses followed, and then the enemy retired, promising to rout us on next day.

Rodney was the first of us to speak. "Up anchor and off for the Spanish Main!" he cried. "I really feel like a pirate. Where's Duponceau?"

"Here!" We turned and saw our gentleman adventurer sitting on the chest. Rodney burst into a laugh. "To think that not one of them knew what it was you two carried! They must have thought that we were foraging for food."

We had all four come out of the scrimmage unscathed, except for a few bruises, but were too much excited to sleep. With much ceremony, we took the chest below and placed it inside of that other brass-bound box that had waited so long for a new treasure. I was sure that Rodney was eager for a look at the inside of Duponceau's box, and, to tell the truth, I also was hoping for a peep at it, but Duponceau preferred to keep its secrets entirely to himself. He was communicative only to a certain point; beyond that he was a very sphinx, and in some way the facts he told us seemed to enwrap him in more mystery.

I went up on deck, where Charles was pacing steadily back and forth.

"You saved Mr. Islip from a very bad position, Charles," I said. "How did you manage to quiet that fellow so soon?"

"With an upper-cut I learned in the old country, sir. I left him fast asleep. He'd been prowling round the kitchen, sir, and making himself generally disagreeable, and I was glad to settle the score."

"H'm, so we left one trussed like a pig in the woods, and another asleep on the beach. This begins to look serious."

"Yes, Mr. Felix; that's what I've been saying to myself for the last half-hour."

We spent that night in a state of suppressed excitement—that is, all of us except Duponceau, who seemed to regard a trial by bullets as nothing out of the usual.

## CHAPTER XV.

I watched the east turn opalescent with the coming sun, and the sea pass through the pale, translucent colors of the shells beneath its surface, delicate reds and blues and the infinitely soft mother-of-pearl. Then the hues deepened, and the sun, not yet too bold for the eyes, rose like the center of a gorgeous flower. The sea-world was his, and through and over the vast space of it glittered his tiny messages of living flame. They came even to the side of the ship and shivered themselves radiantly against its old, gray-green, sea-worn boards.

I had the world to myself, the sea and its dancing colors, the ship and its early-morning memories. That awe and veneration which steals over the watcher of dawn—as though witness to a birth both physical and spiritual—stole over me, and I wondered how often in the ages past solitary watchers had marvelled from this deck. Life was new and strange and sweet, and as boundless as the ocean before me.

I came back to reality, and wondered how it was that I, who only a week before had been busied with my manuscript in the study of my cottage, should now be facing a life as strange as it was daring. Man cannot live a life to himself alone, occurred to me, and I thought that he would not even if he could. The ordinary, normal course no longer appealed to me. I cared not if our opponents were servants of the law or of a private power struggling to overwhelm my friend. I looked down at the pistol in my belt and smiled; the life of an adventurer was not so bad when it gave one the sea and the sky and the fellowship of men.

Duponceau stood beside me, his face serene, delight in the fresh day mirrored in his eyes.

"Why will men fight and prey on each other?" he asked wonderingly.

"You should know," I answered.

"Yes," said he; "I should, and I do. Utopia has not come, and meanwhile we each covet what others have and we have not. Those men yonder merely represent

powers that want to do what I have done."

Charles and Rodney came on deck, and we breakfasted on what was still left of our provisions—a scanty store, that stood in immediate need of replenishing. Then we held a council of war.

"If they are wise," said Rodney, "they'll settle down to besiege us. They could starve us out here in forty-eight hours. I've an idea, however, that they're afraid to do that for fear of legal consequences. I take it this is a purely personal fight."

I had the same thoughts; some French enemies of Duponceau's were trying to kidnap him, had been my conclusion.

"Look!" Duponceau was standing, and we followed his gaze and saw a sail-boat—my sail-boat—round the cliff to the west and lie to in the open sea. "Not that way," he said; "there'll be no more swimming done. They're going to guard us from the ocean."

Then Rodney spoke up. "Perhaps I can get across the beach to the cottage and bring some of the tinned meats back."

"Unless they have confiscated my house as well as my boat," I suggested. "However, it's worth a try. Charles stays on guard, and I go with you."

So, a little later, the two of us, having an eye that the men in the sail-boat should not see us, lowered ourselves over the side, and waded waist-deep through the water. We crawled up the rocks and, lying low, peered through breaks at the beach. There was nothing but shining sand between our position and the house.

Carefully we stole over the rocks and, separating slightly, so that each might be unhampered by the other, advanced westward. I had an impression of what it must be to march across a desert in the face of an unseen foe. Only, we did not have the protection of the desert, for there were dunes above us on the right.

We had gone perhaps half-way when the silence rang with a shot. A little furrow blew up in the sand before me, and I saw a light cloud of smoke steal away from the dunes. An instant's silence, another report, and a furrow was ploughed in the sand ten yards to the rear. We were hemmed in by an unseen ring.

We faced the dunes, standing stock-still. Two more guns cracked, and the bullets sped in the air, above our heads, but not so far that we could not hear them sing. Rodney could stand it no longer.

"Come out and show yourselves like men!" he cried, his voice high-pitched and straining. An instant's pause, and then two men leaped forward.

Islip's pistol cracked, then another man joined the two, and as by instinct we separated.

Then began a running fire while we beat a retreat. I kept close as I could to the water, emptying my revolver in such a way as to retard the enemy without wounding them; for we suspected that they were seeking to intimidate us, without actually resorting to bloodshed, and we, for our part, had no desire to have any deaths on our hands. They gained on us, for we retreated while they advanced, and it was only by taking full speed to my heels and making for the rocks that I won a temporary respite. The enemy stopped, and now we could pepper them, shooting to right and left as fast as we loaded.

I glanced backward, and saw the sail-boat very close—much closer than I liked.

"They're going to board the ship!" I cried, and splashed into the water. I tumbled up the side and made for the farther bulwark, calling to Duponceau and Charles to stir themselves. As I did so two men came scrambling over the outer rocks and made for the ship, while a third held the sail-boat to the shore. I heard shouts, and saw Rodney cross beside me. He stood a moment unprotected, and that instant a bullet took him in the arm and I heard him give a cry of pain.

"It's nothing—a scratch on the flesh," he muttered as he crouched.

The two men were climbing the seaward side. I waited, and as the first reared above me I was on him and with all the force in my body buried him back, so that he lost his hold and fell splashing. The other was balancing, had one foot over, had sprung, when Duponceau and Charles seized him, and he went, legs swinging in a circle, beside his fellow in the sea.

We crouched, for the man in the boat was firing. The two below scrambled out of the waves and scurried back to the sail-boat. Then Rodney and Duponceau kept that side of the ship, while Charles and I watched the other. There were a few more scattering shots, then the enemy made off.

In time we left Charles on guard and went down to the cabin, while Duponceau examined and bandaged Rodney's arm. Rodney was right; it was merely a flesh-wound in his fore-arm, but, slight as it was, it seemed to turn him into our hero. It was the first blood of the war.

When the wound was attended to we went on deck, all of us aquiver with excitement, and there we four sat, each with a pistol in his hand, and warm blood beating in his veins.

Noon came, and we lunched on scraps, and tried to make out on smoking many pipefuls of tobacco. The sun slowly crossed the western heavens and commenced to drop. Suddenly I discovered that I was parched with thirst.

"Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink." There's no use disguising it any longer; we'll be caught here like rats in a trap," I said. "We'd better get away before we fall to eating horse-leather."

"I have plenty of water and food in my house. It'll stand a good long siege. If any of those rascals are living in it,

I'd like to turn them out. What do you say?"

"It sounds pretty good to me," assented Rodney.

Duponceau nodded, and so it was arranged that we should leave the ship. There were no two ways about it, to go or stay and be starved into surrender.

## CHAPTER XVI.

Our change of base was to be made after sunset, between those hours when the darkness should first steal across the beach, and those when our enemy might expect that we would venture forth under the shade of night. We decided to leave Duponceau's chest where it was for the present, in the belief that the enemy would instantly turn their attention to my cottage, and that the box would be safest in some such place as that deserted cabin.

With night-fall we prepared, glad to be about something after eight hours of patient watching. We were to go in single file, I first, Rodney next, his wounded arm in a sling, then Duponceau, and finally Charles, with some little space between us. We cleaned and loaded our revolvers, and about 8 o'clock, when we could no longer see the sail-boat standing out against us, I bade good-by to the ship, slid over the side into the water, crossed through it, and crept over the rocks. I turned and signalled to Rodney that the coast was clear, and saw him lower himself by one arm and find a footing. Then, with a silent prayer that no stray bullet might lodge in one of us before we reached cover, I stepped gingerly on to the beach. You have seen pictures of African warriors stealing tip-toe through the jungle, their whole bodies alert for any noise. So I went, my sense of hearing abnormally acute, my eyes straining into the twilight for peril. I could neither run nor stop, but stepped on with the precision of an automaton, hoping that in time the stretch of sand would have slipped past beneath my feet and I come to the refuge of the dunes. I did not look back, but knew that three other men were tip-toeing as silently behind me, keen as was I to break into a dash. So on and on I went, for endless time it seemed then—hearing only the sob of the ebb and flow of the tide and the soft, slurring rattle of the water as it slipped back over a stretch of stones.

I neared the cottage, had gone one-half, two-thirds, three-fourths, of the way, and then of a sudden a screaming gull whirled above my head, and, without thought save that I must break this tension, I shot forth full running for the house. I raced over the hard sand, over the soft sand, and when I came to my cottage fell panting in the wide arms of the dunes, quivering, breathless. A moment later the three others had fallen near me, and we all lay there like so many bags of meal.

"That's panic!" said Rodney. "I know now how it comes without any cause."

After a time Charles rose and stole to the kitchen-window. He looked in and shook his head. Then he disappeared around the other side. "Nobody there," he presently reported.

I looked at my pistol and led the way. The front door was ajar, and without any more ado I entered my house on tip-toe, keen-eyed as a cat. The others followed, and Charles closed the door and bolted it. I went into the kitchen, found it also empty, and secured that entrance; then, with the same care, we four filed up the stairs and into my study. A man sat in my Morris-chair, smoking my meerschaum pipe. I covered him with the revolver as he looked up.

"Hello!" said he. "Never mind the gun. I'm alone in the house, and my gun's not in shooting order."

"Suppose I see, sir," said Charles, and a moment later he found a revolver in the man's hip-pocket and appropriated it.

"Well," I demanded, "what have you to say to breaking into a man's house in his absence?"

The other—you could see he had a sense of humor from the wry smile he made—leaned back and cocked his eye at me. "I heard you'd gone to sea," he answered, "and wouldn't be coming back soon."

"Ah, that's where I have the advantage of you, and a very considerable advantage. What I want is the Frenchman over there." He looked past me at Duponceau. "I come in for gold when I capture him."

I signalled to Charles, and in a trice he had bent the man's arms tight around the back of the chair. I found a rope and tied him there fast. We bound his mouth securely, so that even his wry smile disappeared, and then left him.

## A Well-known Name.

Among the many namesakes of Thomas Jefferson is a colored man who for more than ten years has spent his time in humble but useful employment. He wheels ashes and rubbish of all sorts from the back doors of the houses in one of the districts of a New England town.

He has learned through the servants in these houses many items of interest concerning his employers and their families, and has a decided belief in his own importance to their welfare.

One day the head of one family went out into his back yard, and seeing the colored man at work over the ash barrel, said, affably:

"Let's see, what's your name?"

"Thomas Jefferson, sah," was the reply.

"Ah!" said the gentleman. "I think—I am quite sure—I have heard that name before."

"Yas, sah, mos' likely you is heard it," said the negro, showing his white teeth. "I's done shovel ashes an' wheel bar's out o' dis yer allyes fo' de las' ten years."

## Dad's Idea.

"Pa," said Mrs. Hardapple, enthusiastically. "Mandy is getting to be one of these here sure-enough artist folks. Would you like to see her wash drawings?"

"No," growled the old man, in crabbed tones. "Blamed lot of foolishness, I'd rather see her wash dishes."

## A La Mode.

Party Caller—Is Mrs. X. at home?

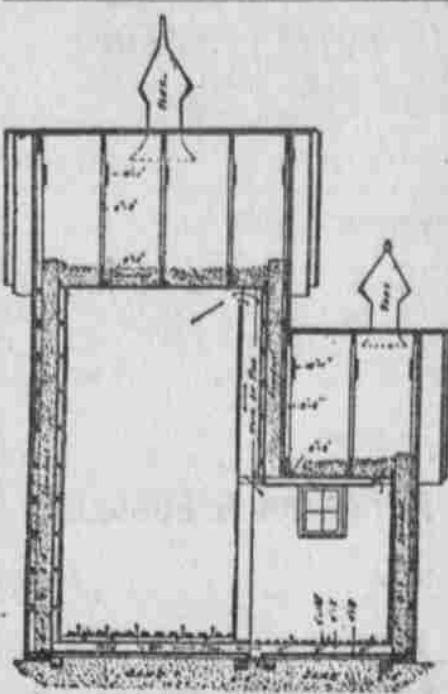
"Yes, sir."

"Will you-er-please leave my card on the table?"—Harvard Lampoon.

# FARM AND GARDEN

## Meat Refrigerator.

The accompanying illustration shows the plan of refrigerator with meat chamber attached, the accompanying illustration is given. Provision must



REFRIGERATOR WITH MEAT CHAMBER.

be made for the circulation of air so that it will not become stagnant at any point and by coming in frequent touch with the ice will be kept cool. The relative sizes and positions of the ice chamber and refrigerator are shown and these can be made larger or smaller in proportion to meet the requirements.

## Keeping the Wheat Pure.

One of the most important factors in growing improved wheat for seed is to keep the wheat pure. Many farmers are careless on this point, often planting new seed on old wheat

## FORMS OF HOOFS.

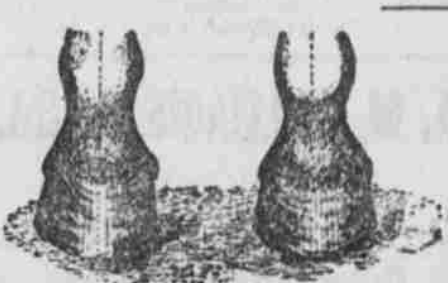


Fig. 1.

The form of a horse's foot determines the peculiarities of the shoe that is best adapted to it. Viewing the foot from the side the regular position is that shown in figure 4, in which the weight will be borne to best advantage. Looking from the front the regular form is that shown in figure 1, the wide toe being indicated by figure 2, and the narrow toe by figure 3. With the regular or normal shape the weight falls near the center of the hoof, and is evenly distributed over the whole bottom of the hoof. The toe points straight forward and when the horse is moving forward in a straight line the hoofs are picked up and carried forward in a line parallel to the middle line of the body. A pair of hoofs of the form shown in figure 2 allows the

**The Cowpea as a Fertilizer.**  
The cow pea is a large beanlike plant that produces a large amount of forage. It is valuable as a green food or for plowing under for green manure. It has been used successfully for improving wornout soils, especially those that are light and sandy in texture. Its greatest advantage for this purpose is its ability to gather nitrogen from the air and mineral elements from subsoil. When the crop is plowed under, these are left near the surface, where they will be available to shallow-rooted crops and those which cannot get nitrogen from the air. It has been little used for hay in the North, because it cannot be readily dried in this climate. It makes a good green feed for milch cows between August 15 and September 15, or it may be preserved in the silo by mixing with corn fodder. For green manuring, the seed should be sown broadcast in late June or early July, at the rate of one and a half bushels per acre. It is especially valuable for growing in young orchards. When wanted for fodder it should be sown in early June, in drills 2 1/2 feet apart, at the rate of one bushel seed per acre.

## Fly Repeller.

The Kansas Agricultural College has experimented with the various chemical formulas to repel flies from live stock and recommends the following as fairly satisfactory: Resin, 1 1/2 pounds; laundry soap, two cakes; fish oil, one-half pint; enough water to make three gallons. Dissolve resin in a solution of soap and water by heating, add the fish oil and the rest of the water. Apply with a brush. It to be used as a spray, add one-half pint of kerosene. This mixture will cost 7 to 8 cents a gallon and one-half pint is considered enough for one application for a cow. At first it will be necessary to use two or three applications per week until the outer ends of the hair become coated with the resin. After that retouch those parts where the resin is rubbed off.

## To Destroy Woodchucks.

A Pennsylvania farmer gives this experience with woodchucks (ground hogs): He had set several hundred early cabbages, and in going through his patch early one morning he found several plants missing. He found the

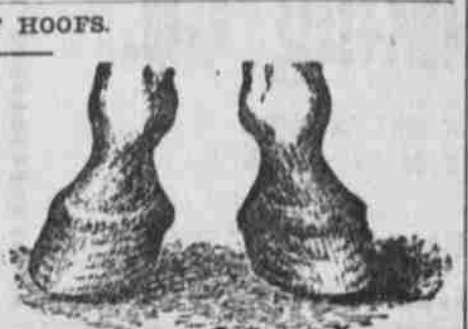


Fig. 2.

weight to fall largely into the inner half of the hoof. In motion the hoof is moved in a circle. Horses that are "toe-wide" are likely to interfere when

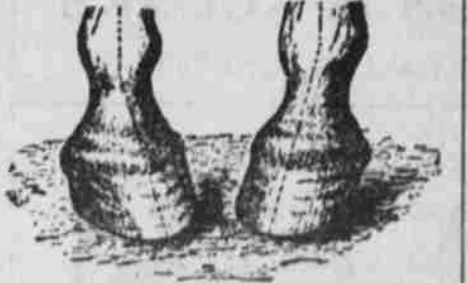


Fig. 3.

in motion. In the third form (figure 3) the weight of the body is directed on the outer half of the hoof. The irregularity of form causes a paddling motion and frequently interfering.

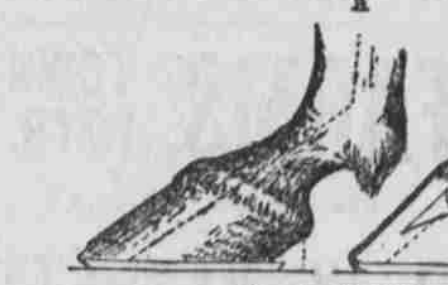
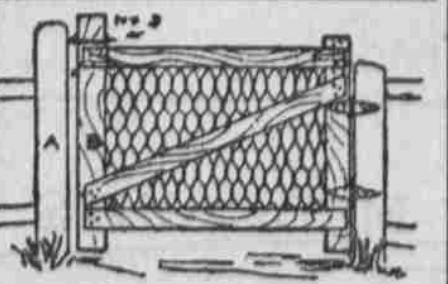


Fig. 4.—Regular Form Is Shown in B.

ground, thus allowing it to become mixed with volunteer wheat the first year. This mixing of varieties causes wheat to deteriorate in yield and quality. When wheat is grown for seed it should be on clean land, which is free from volunteer wheat and from other volunteer grain, rye being especially objectionable. Care must be taken in harvesting and threshing the seed wheat to keep it from becoming mixed with other varieties of wheat. Again, in order to maintain the quality and yield of wheat it is necessary to maintain the fertility of the soil and to give the land good culture.—Farmers' Mail and Breeze.

## A Good Gate Tightener.

This can be put on any wire gate. Nearly everybody knows how to make a wire gate as shown in the cut, so



GATE TIGHTENER.

all that needs an explanation is that wire No. 3 is common wrapping wire. Put around post A and make long enough to reach post B. Run a stout stick or iron rod through wire No. 3, drawing it toward post A. In this way the gate can be made as tight as possible.

**The Dutch Mulch.**  
Shallow cultivation conserves the moisture and prevents it from escaping from the surface. Every time rain falls the loose ground absorbs more than does the hard soil, as the latter permits the water to flow off. When the rain goes down into the soil, and the soil is then loosened, the capillary tubes are sealed and the flow of water upward is arrested. A loose top soil, therefore, not only permits of securing a large share of water from each rain, but also retains it.

## Destructive Rats.

According to a recent report of the biological survey of the Department of Agriculture, rats destroy annually \$100,000,000 worth of American grain. It is estimated that one rat will eat 60 cents' worth of grain in a year, while of oatmeal it will consume \$1.80 worth. Rat-proof construction, especially the use of concrete foundations, is urged, as well as some rational method of disposing of garbage and storing food.

# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1642—First commencement exercises of Harvard College.
- 1690—Expedition under Sir William Phipps sailed from Boston for the conquest of Canada.
- 1749—Cornerstone of King's Chapel, Boston, laid.
- 1765—Gov. Hutchinson's house in Boston was mobbed.
- 1782—British evacuated Savannah.
- 1804—Francis II, Emperor of Germany, abdicated to become Emperor of Austria....The President ordered two gunboats to cruise off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina to protect the coast of these States.
- 1812—United States frigate Constitution captured and sunk the British frigate Guerriere.
- 1831—Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, first in America, was opened.
- 1832—The first iron ferry boat propelled by steam was put in commission in Boston.
- 1838—Banks of the United States resumed specie payment.
- 1846—Smithsonian Institution at Washington founded.
- 1848—Oregon Territory formed by act of Congress.
- 1851—Nicaragua route opened between New York and San Francisco.
- 1859—Tuscany declared in favor of united kingdom of Italy under Victor Emmanuel.
- 1861—Gen. Fremont declared martial law in St. Louis.
- 1863—First negro regiment raised in Pennsylvania started for the South....Mississippi River declared open for trade.
- 1868—Arequipa destroyed by earthquake.
- 1872—New operation in surgery, since known as Battery's operation, first successfully performed in Rome, Ga....Third National Bank of Baltimore robbed of \$200,000 in cash and securities.
- 1884—Grover Cleveland's letter accepting the presidential nomination made public.
- 1887—Ferdinand, Czar of Bulgaria, ascended the throne.
- 1889—Ex-Judge Terry assaulted Justice Field at Lathrop, Cal., and was killed by a deputy marshal.
- 1891—Earthquake in Martinique; 840 lives lost.
- 1893—Severe tornado at Larned, Kansas....First Chinaman deported from San Francisco under the Geary act....Fire in Minneapolis destroyed \$3,000,000 in property and rendered 1,500 persons homeless.
- 1894—Twelve lives lost in the wreck of a Rock Island train near Lincoln, Neb.
- 1896—Gold discovered in the Klondike....The Sultan of Turkey refused further concessions to Crete.
- 1898—Peace declared between the United States and Spain.
- 1900—The allies reached Peking and forced an entrance to the city.
- 1903—Expedition for the relief of Nordenskjöld's South Polar expedition sailed from Stockholm on board the Frithjof....Lord Northcote succeeded Lord Tennyson as governor general of Australia.
- 1908—Liquidation of old French Panama Canal Company completed....Ainsworth R. Spofford, former librarian of the congressional library, died....Persia appointed diplomatic representatives at Athens, Greece, for the first time in 2,398 years.

**Last Year's Building Operations.**  
The total cost of the buildings erected in the principal cities of the United States in 1908 was \$446,487,390, according to the geological survey. In 1907 the cost of buildings in these same cities reached a total of \$626,148,890. The decrease in cost in 1908, therefore, amounts to \$179,651,500, or 12.73 per cent.  
The relative rank of the cities in cost of building operations is interesting. New York is first, the cost of its buildings exceeding the cost of those of its closest competitor, Chicago, by \$50,534,582, or more than 75 per cent. If the cost of operations in Brooklyn, the third city in rank, is added to that for New York the total will be \$183,684,622, or 30 per cent of the 49 cities included in the table.  
San Francisco is fourth in rank, Philadelphia is fifth and St. Louis is sixth. Seventh in rank is the small though rapidly growing city of Seattle, which spent more for its buildings in 1908 than Pittsburgh, which was eighth. Boston, which was ninth, and other cities much larger.  
**Will Give Away Whole Town.**  
Because the timber in Carter County, Missouri, has practically all been cut the town of Grandin in that county once a flourishing village of 600 inhabitants, with churches, schools and a bank, is to be given away entirely. The whole town is owned by the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company which controlled nearly all the timber lands in Carter County. Since the timber has been cut and saved the lumber company has no further use for Grandin, where its sawmills were located.