

# The War of the Quah Ju-Ju

By Catcliffe Hyne

I WAS accountable for those fine bars, and that is how the trouble arose. I was chief engineer, you see, and although Captain Debbis was the only other white officer the little M'wara had on board, I had all the responsibilities of the chief of a 100-ton cutter. I had my stores checked when I took over command, and I'd make up an indent of what was expended between each round trip from Sarry Leone, and if there was any extravagance it was me, and not Debbis, that would get the blame.

I'll own we were doing a roaring business with passenger boys. We took them up or set them down at every place we stopped at. The desks of the M'wara were full of them, and they made the little steamer smell like a gin-house transitory. But they'd get a knock of dying, which we couldn't hinder. I'd knock them over, and dysentery, and others of the plagues of Africa which the white men have no name for, and some, I do believe, died for no other reason but just to stir up trouble between Debbis and me.

You see, Captain Debbis was great on funerals. He was a member of some fancy new set which had got a mission in Sarry Leone, and he got that if he could get a funeral service over a dead black man and have him sent over the side with a couple of fire bars made fast to his shins had grabbed him as a bona fide convert. It would have been no use arguing with the man; he was clean convinced. And, as a matter of fact, I didn't argue, but I found one day following down in the stake-hold that he had a free run on those fire bars. One fire bar is enough to sink any dead man with decency, and more is sheer lavish extravagance. But when I told him so he knocked me down, and I pulled him to the deck also and pummeled him so that it was two days before he got back his senses again. It was me and the Keobobys that took the M'wara back into Sarry Leone, and it was me the owners sacked the moment I stepped ashore. But I know for a fact that Debbis was stopped his game with the fire bars from then onward, and I take credit for having preserved the rule of the coast.

Now, what I did for the next six months in Sarry Leone is a matter of my own opinion. I was not making my fortune just then, and if I did not starve it was because white men in a west African colony do not care to let the blacks rejoice by seeing another white man go hungry. But the next piece of remunerative occupation which I found, and it caused me to sign on again as chief engineer of the M'wara, was a surprise even to myself. Indeed, if any one before I found the job, had told me that I, the son of the most highly respected minister in the West Indies of Scotland, would ever be spending my life for the safety of a heathen land, I should have said straight out that he lied. And if any one had added that I should be lugged into the business through sheer liking for a young woman who was not even white, I should have said that not only did he lie also, but he'd a very poor acquaintance with the methods of Neil Angus McTodd.

The young woman's name was Laura Cameron, and I came to know her through her father, who kept a store on the Kissy road. It was he that approached me about the business first, and I let him know straight that he'd got hold of the wrong man. He'd the sense not to push me too hard.

"Maybe you'd like time to think it over, sir," says he.

"Very well, sir," says he with a sigh, "but never set. And now, sir, I ask you to come into house, and my daughter shall swizzle you cocktail. Perhaps you will stay for chop after-ward."

"Right-o," said I, and stepped through the back of the shop.

The old man was a middle-aged, in color like a ginger bread cake and he talked with a queer, English, drawl. The daughter, I was a good deal surprised to find, was a very slender, light-colored, in fact, she was white to look at as myself, with hair that wasn't even kinky, and pink color to her cheeks, and a figure as good as any lady's you could see on the stage. She had been to parties and danced with the officers of the West India regiment, and she had a full opinion of her own looks and responsibilities. And because it wasn't as easy to get on with her as some, I think I liked her all the more. She'd been in England to school, and could play the harmonium and speak French and do geography. There were plates, hand painted by herself, hung on the whitewashed wall of the sitting room. And she'd a school friend that had stayed near Ballindrochar through-out one holiday. It was plain that she was splendidly educated. I was born in Ballindrochar myself.

She invited me to have a second cocktail, but I knew my weakness and refused. And then we went out on to the veranda at the back and took fans and chairs and talked. I don't know when I've been so struck on a young woman in so short a time.

I stayed on to tea, but her father didn't come in, and she and I had it together. A regular slap-up tea it was, none of your common white chop, but tinned salmon and marmalade and pickles—same as you might have here at home. It was the most Christian blow-out I'd had in Sarry Leone.

After tea we went out to the veranda again. It was moonlight and quite good, and we didn't even have to fan, she gave me a good black Canary cigar, and I let her with her own pretty fingers, and I tell you I felt as comfortable a man as any in Africa.

After awhile she leans toward me, and "Mr. McTodd," says she, "would you do me a service?"

"I'm no a very affluent man just



"I want the Quah Ju-Ju."

quisher. This evening you have expressed admiration for me and offered, if the chance came in your way, to do it for a service. I ask you a little thing, and at once you fall me. Oh, she cried, wringing her hands, "why aren't I white? Then I could have fifty men to do as I wish!"

"You are white to look at," I said, "but whiter in skin than myself."

"But not in blood, and you know it and take advantage of my color. You white men are brutes. You think that all who are not born as yourselves are merely sent into the world to make you ease or sport?"

Weed, you was quite true, but it did not make me feel in any the better mood. "I'm not myself for all that. I'm hard on to the Canary edge and stared out at the shadow of a palm tree thrown black across the garden soil by the moonlight. It didn't seem that I'd anything left to say. The girl leaned up against one of the veranda posts, and I saw her bosom heaving. Her eyes shone bright with tears in the moon. "Oh, Neil, Neil," I heard her say in sort of whispering sobs, "I didn't think you could be cruel to me like the others!"

I got up and clapped an arm round her. I thought it was only right.

"My dear," I said, "what do you want this for?"

"What does it matter?" says she miserably. "You don't care?"

"You'd better tell me, and then may I can help."

"My father has a commission to buy up native curiosities for a gentleman in England who is making a collection."

I hugged her to me. "You'd have found it easier to have told me that before, my dear. I thought from what your dad hinted it was for something else. You shall have the ugly thing so soon as ever I can come back with it if you can fix me up that berth on the M'wara."

"Oh, that's simple. I have influence with the owners. But how can I be sure you will get the Ju-Ju for me?"

"Because I tell you."

"She thanked me with a squeeze. "But the Ju-Ju will be very hard to get," says she. "If you let the soldier officers know anything about it they will stop you at once."

"Oh, those swine are always on the look for themselves. Catch me talking!"

"And the Quah tribes are very savage. You will not find it easy to take the Ju-Ju from them."

"I'm no quite a lamb myself," said I, "when it comes to beating standing in the way of what I want. Will you seal the bargain?"

"How can I do that, Neil?" says she, with a bit of a blush.

"A kiss would make it safer than a charge-party stamp," said I. And there and then we sealed the contract. I'd have married that girl out of hand that very day if I'd seen my way to setting up a household. But I hadn't a shilling in my pocket; I'd to go to sea and earn more, and so it was no use saying what I'd in my mind. Eh, well, there are times when a man can look back upon poverty and ken it's been a useful thing to him.

The M'wara was standing out past the white lighthouse on the point and thrashing her way among the shoals. Freetown was out of sight behind a green wooded shoulder, though a building or two showed among the trees higher up on the mountains. Far away on the starboard hand was the low, swampy Ballum shore, and ahead was the open sea, glittering like diamonds in the sunlight. Aye, 200 black soldiers of the West India regiment on board, with machine guns and grub and ammunition casks and all their other truck, and they didn't leave much standing room. The M'wara was only eighty tons. If she'd been bigger she'd not have had an unscrupulous engineer for her chief and the only white man in her stockhold.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

### GRAY SQUIRRELS.

They Will Eat Meat and Have Been Known to Rob Birds' Nests.

It has been well said that the gray squirrels are seen everywhere in some of our New England towns are an indication of a higher civilization. It is certainly a pleasure to see these graceful creatures running across trolley tracks or over lawns unmolested. A stranger would have a very high estimate of the people of a city that could draw to it these sly animals. Like many rodents, however, gray squirrels will eat meat on occasions. They will even rob birds' nests. A friend on whom I can rely told me of two or three instances in Arlington, Mass., where gray squirrels had robbed robins' nests, having been caught in the very act.

One winter day, in going along a wild mountain stream, I was attracted by a fresh gray squirrel track, and on following it found where the squirrel had killed and eaten a mouse. He had evidently dug out the mouse, for I saw where he had dug snow and lay away from the nests of some black birds to some depth. Then, taking the mouse in his teeth, he had run a few feet to a knoll, the mouse's tail having left its print in the snow between the tracks of the squirrel, and eaten it. I saw the squirrel's hair and pieces of bone to tell of the feast.

One time I gave a young woodchuck to an Irish woman, who fed the chink on ham. Now, if a woodchuck would eat ham, why not a gray squirrel eat mice or young birds? We have abundant proof that many flesh eaters will, on occasions, eat vegetable food as well as rodents eating flesh. Lovers of both squirrels and birds may find it possible to protect in some way the nests of thrushes, warblers, etc.—John Burroughs in *Outing*.

### MODEL LODGINGS.

What the Rowton House Scheme in London Gives Its Patrons.

Every man who comes to a Rowton house is impressed with the fact that he can there obtain better value and more comfort than he can get anywhere else. He finds that the conditions under which he lives are improved and that he has congenial surroundings and associates. All the resources of civilization he can have—bright, warm, comfortable rooms, lavatories with basins supplied with hot and cold water, footbaths without extra payment and a full length bath with soap and towels for the nominal charge of one penny. A man can do his own laundry work if he so wishes. He can use any of the reading, smoking or writing rooms, and, above all, he has absolute freedom as regards his mode of living.

Although the Rowton House scheme provides a complete restaurant where food of all kinds can be procured at exceptionally low prices, probably cheaper than at any other place in London, at the same time no resident is obliged to purchase any of the commodities supplied by the company. Residents can, if they choose, buy everything they want outside the building, while inside the Rowton houses they will find provided for them, without charge, every cooking utensil necessary, with cutlery, crockery, etc., without limit. A constant supply of boiling water is at hand, and good fires and cooking ranges are kept going at all times. A specially arranged scullery, fitted with white glaze sinks, with supplies of hot and cold water, is provided, so that any man desirous of preparing his own food can do so without any supervision or any interference from his fellows.—Sir Richard Farrant in *Corinth Magazine*.

### Clean Hands.

On the subject of unclean hands a physician says that cases of infection that could be accounted for in no other way have been explained by the fingers as a vehicle. In handling money, especially paper, door knobs, banisters, car straps and a hundred things that every one must frequently touch, there are chances innumerable of picking up germs of typhoid, scarlatina, diphtheria, smallpox, etc. Therefore to avoid any dangerous results the physician is simply to wash the hands immediately and scrupulously before eating or touching that which is to be eaten.

### SHIPS' ANCHORS.

The Change From Short, Straight Links to Curved Arms.

The ship's anchors in general use up to the beginning of the last century consisted of a long, round iron shank, having two comparatively short straight arms or flukes, inclined to the shank at an angle of about forty degrees and meeting it in a somewhat sharp point at the crown. In large anchors the bulky wooden stock was built up of several pieces, hooped together, the whole tapering outward to the ends, especially on the aft or cable side.

About the beginning of the last century a clerk in the Plymouth navy yard, Perring by name, suggested certain improvements, the most important of which was making the arms curved instead of straight. At first sight this simple change may seem of little value, but consideration will show this is not the case. The holding power of an anchor depends on two principal conditions—namely, the extent of useful holding surface and the amount of vertical penetration. The latter quality is necessary on account of the nature of ordinary sea bottoms, the surface layers of which are generally less tenacious and resisting than is the ground a short distance below.

In the year 1831 chain cables began to supersede the hempen ones, with the result that the long shanked anchors hitherto in vogue were no longer necessary, and anchors with shorter shanks and with heavier and stronger crowns gradually came into use. In consequence of these changes, a commission was appointed in the year 1838 to inquire into the holding power of the several anchors in general use. The result was the adoption of the so-called admiralty pattern anchor, which continued to be used in the British navy up to the year 1869.

The invention of the steam hammer in 1842 made the welding of heavy masses of iron a comparatively easy and reliable process, so that from this time onward the strength of anchors fully kept pace with that of the chain cables, which had come into general use. A number of patents for anchors were taken out prior to the great exhibition of 1851, and, public attention having been called to the models there shown in the following year, a committee was appointed by the admiralty to report on the qualifications of anchors of the various kinds.

Practical trials were then instituted, and, as a result, some of the tests to which the anchors were submitted were of doubtful value, such, for instance, as "trailing for sweeping." Nowadays, however, at all events for deep ships in shallow harbors, it is considered an advantage for an anchor to offer as little obstruction as possible above the ground.—Nautical Gazette.

### THE ROMANS.

Immense Fortunes Were Not Uncommon in the Old Days.

When L. Calpurnius Piso was appointed governor of Macedonia for one year he drew for his outfit from the public treasury 18,000,000 sesterces, or £3,600,000. He did not want the money for that purpose. Everything required by a provincial was supplied to him by the province. Piso simply took the money for himself and lent it out in Rome at high interest. C. Verres was charged by Cicero with having pocketed \$1,000,000 in three years, besides many valuable works of art. He practically admitted his guilt by noting from Rome without attempting any defense. Cicero when governor of the poor province of Cilicia found himself richer in one year by £20,000, and he was perhaps the only provincial who ever handed over his surplus to the state.

It is no doubt that Cicero and the younger Pliny received large sums from their clients while those clients were still living. Balbus is not likely to have secured the argument "Pro Balbo" for a mere trifle. And the multitude of Sicily for the prosecution of Verres undoubtedly took a very substantial form. Apart from all this, Calpurnius, it is recorded that Cicero and the younger Pliny received large sums from their clients while those clients were still living. Balbus is not likely to have secured the argument "Pro Balbo" for a mere trifle. And the multitude of Sicily for the prosecution of Verres undoubtedly took a very substantial form. Apart from all this, Calpurnius, it is recorded that Cicero and the younger Pliny received large sums from their clients while those clients were still living. Balbus is not likely to have secured the argument "Pro Balbo" for a mere trifle. And the multitude of Sicily for the prosecution of Verres undoubtedly took a very substantial form. 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