trom **Brodney's** By GEORGE BARR M'CUTCHEON

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A handsome young soldier of fortune, a princess of enchanting beauty, two eccentric advenbrers who leave wills disposing the island of Japat and its marry within a year to inherit shrewd American lawyer, a impose upon me as if"scheming British solicitor, a ems who will inherit the riches of Japat provided the heirs do name?" not marry each other - these are the leading characters in a roelty, thrilling and unusual situapparently hopeless love has to dispose of her incumbrance in either rarely been equaled and never way on such short notice."

CHAPTER L THE LATE MR. SKAGGS.

surpassed.

stimulating, to say the least, inapplicable though the expression may seem. He attained mysterious south seas. The world had quite thoroughly forgotten him during the twenty odd years immediately preceding his death. It was, however, noticeably worth while to remember him at this particular time. He left

In Boston the law firm of Bowen & to the effort to anticipate and circumvent the plans of the firm of Bosworth, Newnes & Grapewin, London, E. C., Messrs. Bosworth, Newnes & Grape ever survived a man." win were blindly struggling to do pre-Messrs. Bowen & Hare.

a last will and testament that bade

"Pretty badly tangled, I declare," his senior partner.

ed to groan.

Before them on the table lay the constupendous letter from their London Taswell Skaggs' will. Mr. Bowen recently had been named as joint executer of the will, together with Sir John Allencromble of London, W. C., one time neighbor of the late Mr. Skaggs. A long and exasperating cablegram had touched somewhat irresolutely upon the terms of the will, besides cotifying him that one of the heirs realded in Boston. He was instructed to apprise this young man of his good

There was one very important, perhaps imposing, feature in connection with the old gentleman's will-he was decidedly sound of mind and body when it was uttered.

When such astute lawyers as Bowen t Hare give up to amazement, the usual forerunner of consternation, it is high time to regard the case as star-

"Read it again, Bowen."

"The will?"

"No; the letter."

Whereupon Mr. Bowen again read aloud the letter from Bosworth, Newnes & Grapewin, this time slowly and speculatively.

"They seem as much upset by the situation as we," he observed reflec-

"Extraordinary state of affairs, I

"And I don't know what to do about I don't even know how to begin.

They're both married." "And not to each other."

"She's the wife of a Lord knows what of a lord, and he's married to an uncommonly fine girl, they say, notwithstanding the fact that she has larger social aspirations than he has

"And if that all important clause in the will is not carried out to the letter the whole fortune goes to the bow-

"Practically the same thing. He calls them 'natives;' that's all. will go the old man's millions. I a goodly sized menagerie besides if the tions.



don't see how anything short of Providence can alter the situation.'

you as executor, not me."

impossible situation, Hare. In the land." raby mines, two heirs who must first place. Skaggs was not an inti-Constantinople five years ago and aft- out again." the property despite the fact erward handled some business for him

"But why should you hesitate? You have only to wait for the year to roll pretty stenographer, a prince by and then turn your troubles over to the is musical and profligate the natives. Young Browne can't and a horde of fanatical Mos- marry Miss Ruthren inside of a year simply because there is no Miss Ruthven. She's Lady-Lady-what's the

"Deppingham." "And Browne already has one Mrs. mance which for genuine nov. Browne to his credit, don't you see Well, that settles it, I'd say. It's hardly probable that Browne will murder or ations, live American humor divorce his wife, nor is it likely that and the pathos of a great but her ladyship would have the courage

> "But it means millions to them, Hare."

> "That's their unfortunate lookout. You are to act as an executor, not as a matrimonial agent."

"But, man, it's an outrage to give all HE death of Taswell Skaggs was of it to those wretched islanders. Bosgrow there like mushrooms."

"Bosworth also says that the Islandthe end of a hale old age by tumbling ers are thrifty, intelligent and will fight simlessly into the mouth of a crater on for their rights. There are lawyers Skaggs. Each had made his will some the island of Japat, somewhere in the among them, he says, as well as jewel fifteen years or more before death, and diggers and fishermen."

who ever lived there long enough to find out what the island had stored up why he wants to give it back to the grandchild. fair to distress as well as startle a natives."

great many people on both sides of the "Perhaps he owes it to them. He contrary to all human belief, he may Hare was puzzling Raelf beyond reason have resurrected a conscience. Any- before Wyckholme happened upon the how, there remains a chance for the helrs to break the will."

while on the other side of the Atlantic done. It's as clean an instrument as ans. Skaggs and Wyckholme pur-

It is by this time safe for the reader sely the same thing in relation to to assume that Mr. Taswell Skaggs had been a rich man and therefore Without seeking to further involve privileged to be eccentric. He came of myself I shall at once conduct the a sound old country family in upper reader to the nearest of these law of- England, but seems to have married a bit above his station. His wife was serving as governess in the home of a cersaid Mr. Hare, staring helplessly at tain earl when Taswell won her heart and dragged her from the exalted posi-"Hopelessly," agreed Mr. Bowen, tion of minding other people's children very much as if he had at first intend- into the less conspicuous one of caring for her own.

Their only son was killed by a runtents of a bulky envelope, a long and away horse when he was twenty, and their daughter became the wife of an correspondents and with it a copy of American named Browne when she was scarcely out of her teens. It was then that Mr. Skaggs, practically childless, determined to make himself wifeless as well.

He magnanimously deeded the unentailed farm to his wife, turned his securities into cash and then set forth upon a voyage of exploration. It is ommon history that upon one dark, still night in December he said goodby forever to the farm and its mistress, but it is doubtful if either of them heard him.

To be "jolly well even" with him Mrs. Skaggs did a most priggish thing. She died six months later, but before doing so she made a will in which she left the entire estate to her daughter. effectually depriving the absent husband of any chance to reclaim his

Taswell Skaggs was in Shanghai chased the land from the natives, pro the idols in the Chinese empire.

hisland." Tazzy," explained Mr. Wyckholme, lucky in love.

of Sir Somebody-or-other and had mar- were dead, and both of them were ried the vicar's daughter. This put buried in the heart of an island of ruhim into such bad odor with his fam bies, their deed and their deeds relooks to me as though the bowwows lly that he burried off to the dogs—and maining to posterity—with reserva-

records of the inebriate's asylum are o be credited. His wife, after enduring him for sixteen years, secured a divorce. Accepting the world as his home, he ventured forth to visit every nook and cranny of it. In course of time he came upon his old time neighbor and boyhood friend, Taswell Skaggs, in the city of Shanghal. Neither of them had seen the British isles in two years or more.

"'Ow do you know?" demanded Taswell.

"Haven't I been there, old chap? A year or more? It's a rotten big place where gentlemen aspire to sell gloves and hankerchiefs and needlework over the shop counters. You know, Tazzy, I could well afford to starve, and I wouldn't sell things, so I came away. But it's no island." "Well, that's neither here nor there,

Jackie. I 'aven't a 'ome, and you 'aven't a 'ome, and we're wanderers on the face of the earth. My wife played me a beastly trick, dyin' like that. I say marriage is a bloomin' nul-

"Marriage, my boy, is the convalescence from a love affair. One wants "Thank heaven, Bowen, he names to get out the worst way, but has to stay in till he's jolly well cured. For "I shall decline to serve. It's an my part, I'm never going back to Eng-

"Nor I. It would be just like me, mate friend of mine. I met him in Jackie, to 'ave a relapse and never get

The old friends took an inventory that they are already married, in New York. He had no right to Jack Wyckholme, gentleman's son and ne'er-do-well, possessed £9 and a fraction, an appetite and excellent spirits. while Taswell Skaggs exhibited a balfairly successful trade in Celestial neto change his luck. "I have a proposition to make to you.

> Tazzy," said Mr. Wyckholme late in the night.

"I think I'll listen to it, Jackie," re plied Mr. Skaggs, quite soberly.

As the outcome of this midnight proposition Taswell Skaggs and John Wyckholme arrived two months later at the tiny island of Japat, somewhere south of the Arabian sea, there to remain until their dying days and there to accumulate the wealth which gave the first named a chance to make an extraordinary will. For thirty years they lived on the Island of Japat Wyckholme preceded Skaggs to the grave by two winters, and he willed worth says that rubies and sapphires his share of everything to his partner of thirty years' standing. But there was a proviso in Wyckholme's be quest, just as there was in that of each had bequeathed his fortune to the "Skaggs and Lady Deppingham's survivor. At the death of the surgrandfather were the only white men vivor the entire property was to go to the grandchild of each testator, with certain reservations to be mentioned for civilization. That's why they bought later on, each having by investigation it outright, but I'm hanged if I can see discovered that he possessed a single

The island of Japat had been the home of a Mohammedan race, the outdoubtless bought it for a song, and, growth of Arabian adventurers who had fared far from home many years island by accident. It was a British possession, and there were two or three "It can't be done, Hare; it can't be thousand inhabitants, all Mohammed



"There remains a chance for the heirs to break the will."

when he heard the news. It was on a tected and eased their rights with the Friday. His informant was that erst- government and proceeded to realize while friend Jack Wyckholme. Nat- on what the natives had unwittingly urally Skaggs felt deeply aggrieved prepared for them. In course of time with the fate which permitted him to the natives repented of the deal which capitulate when unconditional surren- gave the Englishmen the right to pick der was so close at hand. His lan- and sell the rubies and other precious guage for one brief quarter of an hour stones that they had been trading did more to upset the progress of Chris- away for such trifles as silks, gewgaws tian endeavor in the far east than all and women. A revolution was imminept, whereupon the owners organ-"There's nawthin' in England for me, ized the entire population into a great Jackie. My gal's a bloomin' foreigner stock company, retaining four-fifths of by this time, and she'll sell the bleedin' the property themselves. This seemed farm, of course. She's an American, to be a satisfactory arrangement, de-God bless 'er 'eart. I dare say if I'd spite the fact that some of the more go to 'er and say I'd like my farm back warlike leaders were difficult to apagain she'd want to fork hover, but 'er pease. It is only necessary to add that 'usband wouldn't be for that sort of the beautiful island of Japat, standing hextravagance. 'E'd boot me off the like an emerald in the sapphire waters sledding for you." of the orient, brought millions in mon-"The United States isn't an island, ey to the two men who had been un-

And now, after more than thirty

CHAPTER II. AN EXTRAORDINARY DOCUMENT.

T appears that the Messra. Skaggs and Wyckholme as their dual career drew to a close set about to learn what had become of their daughters. Investigation proved that Wyckholme's named Ruthven. The Ruthvens in turn had one child, a daughter. Wyckholme's wife and his daughter died uation. Now, if you were not married that your absence from Japat will give when this grandchild was eight or ten years old. By last report the grand-London. She was a pretty young woman, with scores of admirers on her hands and a very level head on her shoulders.

Wyckholme held to his agreement definitely set forth that at the death his own will." of his partner it was to go to Agnes Ruthven, the grandchild-with reservations.

Skaggs found that his daughter, who ert Browne, was in school when the joint will was designed, and he was to have Skaggs' fortune at the death of Wyckholine in case that worthy survived.

In order to keep the business and the property intact and under the perpetual control of one partnership the granddaughter of Wyckholme was to marry the grandson of Skaggs within the year after the death of the surviving partner. The penalty to be imance of £1,000 in a Shanghai bank, a posed upon them if the conditions were not compiled with, neither to be cessities and an unbounded eagerness excusable for the defection of the other, lay in the provision that the whole industry and its accumulated fortune, including the land (and they owned practically the entire island), were to go to the islanders. Wyckholme named Sir John Allencrombie as one executor, and Skaggs selected Alfred Bowen of Boston as the other.

As Wyckholme was the first to die, Skaggs became sole owner of the island and its treasures, and it was he who made the final will in accordance with the original plans.

The island of Japat, with its jewels and its ancient chateau, of modern construction, represented several milion pounds sterling. Wyckholme's dream of erecting an exact replica of a famous old chateau found response in the equally whimsical Skaggs, who constantly bemoaned the fact that it was impossible to spend money. For five years after its completion the two old men, with an army of Arabian retainers and Nubian slaves, lived like oriental potentates in the huge structure on the highlands overlooking the

Skaggs seldom went from one part of his home to another without a guide. It was so vast and so labyrinthine that he feared he might become lost forever. The dungeon below the chateau and the moat with its bridges were the especial delight One of the builders of this rare pile was now sleeping peacefully in the sarcophagus beneath the chapel; the other was lying dead and undiscovered in the very heart of his possessions.

The magnificent plans of the partners would have been a glorious tribute to romance had it not been for tar." one fatal obstacle. The trouble was that young Miss Ruthven and young Bobby, mopping his fine Harvard Mr. Browne did not know that their grandfathers lived, much less that ing perceptibly as he looked about for they owned an island in the south seas. Therefore it is quite natural it be smashed?" that they could not have known they were expected to marry each other.

Miss Ruthven, from motives peculiar to the head and not to the heart, set gether make it out of the question. about to earn a title for herself. Three months before the death of Mr. Skaggs she was married to Lord Deppingham, who possessed a title and a country place that rightfully belonged to his creditors. Mr. Browne, just out of college, hung out his shingle as a physician and surgeon and forthwith, with all the confidence his profession is supposed to inspire, proceeded to marry the daughter of a brokerage banker in Boston and at once found himself struggling with the difficulties of Back Bay society.

A clause in the will, letter of instruction attached, demanded that the two grandchildren should take up their residence in the chateau within six months after the death of the testator, there to remain through the compulsory days of courtship, up to and including the wedding day. Four months had already passed. It was also stipulated that the executors should receive £10,000 each at the expiration of their year of servitude. provided it was shown in court that they had carried out the wishes of the testator or in failing had made the most diligent effort within human power.

"It is very explicit," murmured Mr. Hare for the third time. "I suppose the first step is to notify young Mr. Browne of his misfortune. His lordship has the task of breaking the news to Lady Deppingham."

"You are assuming that I intend to

act under this ridiculous will." "Certainly. It means about \$50,000 nothing to do but to notify two persons whatever they are. I think it's easy months.'

Young Mr. Browne hastened downtown in response to a message from the American executor and was told of the will which had been filed in Mr. Wyckholme was the second sen years of voluntary exile, both of them England, the home land of the testator. clutching the arms of his chair. To say that this debonair, good looking young gentleman was flabbergasted would be putting it more than mildly. on you can count me out. I won't

Mr. Bowen?"-he gasped, bewildered.

Bowen promptly.

"Break the will for me, Mr. Bowen, and I'll give"-

ecutor."

daughter had married a London artist best will breaker you know, please? to join in the suit to overthrow the Something has to be done right away." will. The only point is this-the is-"I'm afraid you don't grasp the sit- landers must not have the advantage

it would"child was living with her father in the islands in the universe. That's set my wife will be obliged to die in tled. You don't know how happy we order"are. She's the"-

"Yes, yes, 1 know," interrupted the Mr. Browne. It may not be necessary wily Mr. Bowen. "Don't tell me about for her to die. There are other alterit. Go and see Judge Garrett, over in natives in law. Give the lawyers a with Skaggs by bequeathing his share the K. building. They say he expects chance. All you have to do is to plant of the property to him, but it was to come back from the grave to break yourself on that island and stay there

> Ten minutes later an excited young man rushed into an office in the K. briously. building.

married Browne, the American. like- said Judge Garrett after extracting the bility of existence, and eventually wise had died, but that she had left wheat from the chaff of Browne's re- reached the side of the anxious young



"It's as sound as the rock of Gibraltar. from her, and she can't get yours. We must combine against the natives. Come back tomorrow at 2."

Promptly at 2 Browne appeared. eager eyed and nervous. He had left behind him at home a miserable young woman with red eyes and choking breath who bemoaned the cruel conviction that she stood between him and fortune.

"But, hang it all, dearest, I wouldn't marry that girl if I had the chance. I'd marry you all over again today if I could," he had cried out to her, but of these lonely, romantic old chaps. she wondered all afternoon if he really meant it. It never entered her head to wonder if Lady Deppingham was old or young, pretty or ugly, bright or dull. Judge Garrett had a copy of the will

> in his hand. He looked dubious, even dismayed.

> "You don't mean it!" gasped poor brow, his six feet of manhood shrinka chair in which to collapse. "C-can't

"It might be an easy matter to prove either of these old gentlemen to have been insane, but the two of them to-

"Darned unreasonable!" "What do you mean, sir?' indig-

nantly. "I mean-oh, you know what I mean -the conditions and all that. Why, the old chumps must have been trying to prove their grandchildren insane when they made that will. Nobody but imbeciles would marry people they'd never seen. I"-

"But the will provides for a six months' courtship, Mr. Browne, I'm sorry to say. You might learn to love a person in less time and still retain your mental balance, you know, especially if she were pretty and an heiress to half your own fortune. I dare say that is what they were thinking richstrasse, but in all his six months about."

of anything at all. They weren't capable. Why didn't they consider the possibility that things might turn out just as they have?" "Possibly they did consider it, my

care a rap whether it went to their or at sea. Possessed of a small in blood relatives or to the islanders. I come sufficiently adequate to sustain fancy of the two they loved the is- life if he managed to advance it to the landers more. At any rate, they left purple age, but wholly incapable of a beautiful opening for the very com- supporting him as a thriftless diploplications which now conspire to give mat, he was compelled to make the the natives their own, after all. It's best of his talents, no matter to what necessary for both of you to be on test they were put. He left college at the ground according to schedule. You twenty-two, possessed of the praisemust go to the island, wife or no wife. and there's not much time to be lost. Lady Deppingham won't let the grass from a certain trust fund. His plan grow under her feet if I know any- also incorporated the hope to save thing about the needs of English no- every penny of that income for the to you at the end of the year, with bility, and I'll bet my hat she's packing her trunks now for a long stay thirty. In each of several New York of the terms in the will. If they're not in Japat. You have farther to go than banks he had something like \$4,000 divorced and married again at the end she, but you must get over there in- drawing 3 per cent interest, while he of the year you and Sir John simply side of sixty days. You can't tell picked his bilthe way through the turn everything over to the Malays, ot what may happen in the next six world on \$2,500 a year, more or less,

'What do you mean?" "Well, it's possible that you may become a widower and she a wid"-"Good heaven, Judge Garrett! Im-

possible!" gasped Bobby Browne,

"Nothing is impossible, my boy." "Well, if that's what you're counting

"What shall I do-what can I do, speculate on my wife's death." "But, man, suppose that it did hap-

"Consult an attorney," advised Mr. pen!" roared the judge trascibly. "You should be prepared for the best-1 "I'll do it!" shouted Bobby Browne, mean the worst. Don't look like a one time haifback on his college elev- sick dog. You go to the island at once. Take your wife along if you like. You'll find her ladyship there, "I can't break it, Bobby. I'm its ex- and she'll need a woman to tell her troubles to. I don't think we'll have "Good Lord! Well, then, who is the any trouble getting the British beirs

to them. Now, I'll"-"I wouldn't give up my wife for all "But I don't like the suggestion that

"Please leave all the details to me until we tell you to get off."

"Or the islanders push me off." lugu-

Young Mr. Browne went away at "You will have to fight it jointly." dusk, half reeling under the responsibehind a son and heir. This son, Rob- marks. "You can't take hers away woman uptown. He bared the facts and awaited the wall of dismay.

"I think it will be perfectly jolly!" she cried instead and kissed him rapturously.

Over the opposite side of the Atlantic the excitement in certain circles was even more intense than that produced in Boston. Lord Deppingham needed the money, but he was a whole day in grasping the fact that his wife could not have it and him at the same time. The beautiful and fashionable Lady Deppingham, once little Agnes Ruthven, came as near to having hysteria as Englishwomen ever do, but she called in a lawyer instead of a doctor. For three days she neglected her social duties (and they were many), ignored her gallant admirers (and they were many) and hurried back and forth between home and chambers so vigorously that his lordship was seldom closer than a day behind in anything she did.

There was a great rattling of trunks, a jangling of keys, a thousand goodbys, a castoff season, and the Deppinghams were racing away for the island of Japat, somewhere in the far south seas.

CHAPTER III.

INTRODUCING HOLLINGSWORTH CHASE. HE excitement attending the Skaggs-Wyckholme revelations had not yet spread to the grand duchy of Rapp-Thorberg, apparently lost as it was in the cluster of small units which went to make up a certain empire, one of the world powers. The Grand Duke Michael disdained the world at large. He had but little in common with anything that moved beyond the confines of his narrow domain. His court was sleepy lackadaisical, unemotional, impregna ble to the taunts of progression. His people were thrifty, stolid and absolutely stationary in their loyalty to the ancient traditions of the duchy. His

army was a mere matter of taxation

and not a thing of pomp or necessity.

The precise location of the grand duchy in the map of the world has little or nothing to do with this narrative. Indeed, were it not for the fact "It's as sound as the rock of Gibral- that the grand duke possessed a peace of mind had been severely diswas transferring his troubles to the establishment you should patemperor, who, in turn, felt obliged to communicate with the United States ambassador, who, in his turn, had no other alternative than to take summary action in respect to the indiscretions of a fellow countryman. Chase's conscience was even and serene, and he was resigning his post with the confidence that he had performed his obligations as an American gentleman should, even though the performance had created an extraordinary commo tion. Chase was new to the old world and its customs, especially those rigorous ones which surrounded royalty Phone M. 25. . . 619 Willamette St. and denied it the right to venture into the commonplace.

Chase had been the representative of

the American government at Thorberg for six months. The American flag floated above his doorway in the Friedof occupation not ten Americans had "Thinking? They weren't thinking crossed the threshold. He was a vigorous, healthy young man, and it may well be presumed that the situation bored him. He was not-a politician; no more was he an office seeker. He was a real soldier of fortune in search boy. It looks to me as if they did not of affairs-in peace or in war, on land worthy design to earn his own way without recourse to the \$4,500 income possible "rainy day." He was now as chance ordained.

"When I'm forty," Chase was wont to remark to envious spendthrifts who couldn't understand his philosophy. "I'll have over a hundred thousand there, and if I live to be ninety just think what I'll have. Moreover, I may get married and have to maintain a poor wife with rich relatives, which is a terrible strain, you know. You have to live up to your wife's rela-

tives, if you don't do anything else." (Continued next week.)

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Two Little Girls had Eczema Very Badly-In One Case Child's Hair Came Out and Left Bare Patches - Father's Head Sore from Childhood - in All Three Cases

CUTICURA MET WITH ITS USUAL SUCCESS

"I have two little girls who have been troubled very badly with eczema. One of them had it on her lower limbs. I did everything that I could hear of for her, but it did not give in until warm weather when it seemingly subsided. The next winter when it became cold weather the exame acted agains and weather the eczema started again and also in her head where it would take the hair out and leave bare patches as large as a quarter of a dollar. At the same as a quarter of a dollar. At the same time her arms were sore the whole length of them. I took her to a physician and he said that she had two distinct types of eczema. I continued with him for several weeks and the child grew worse all of the time. Her sister's arms were also affected in the same way. My husband came home one day with a box of Cuticura Ointment and a cake of Cuticura Soap. I began using them and also the Cuticura ment and a cake of Cuticura Soap. I began using them and also the Cuticura Pills and by the time the second lot was used their skin was soft and smooth as it had not been before for the winter. We keep the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment constantly by us and when any little roughness or irritation appears on their skin I quickly dispei it with the Cuticura Remedies. My husband has used them with most satisfactory results for a sore head which has troubled him from childhood. Mrs. Charles Baker, Albion, Me., Sept. 21, 1908." Baker, Albion, Me., Sept. 21, 1908.

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