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The Pirate of Alastair

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CHAPTER IV.

I happened to be sitting in my den, writing, the following afternoon, when glancing out of the big window that looks up the beach, I caught sight of a woman walking near the water. I picked up my binoculars and focused them on her. It proved to be Miss Graham, dressed in a riding-habit, and with a broad felt hat on her head. She was walking in a somewhat aimless fashion, skirting the waves as though she were playing with them. I saw her glance once at the ship and once in the direction of my house. I put down the glasses and laid my papers aside. When I went down-stairs I roused Charles out of a sound sleep in the kitchen.

"Do you remember how to make tea—good tea?" I asked him.

"Yes, Mr. Felix. Aren't you feeling well, sir?"

"Quite well. Please make some tea that shall be ready to serve in about an hour, and get out a box of those salty biscuits. Set the small table in the dining-room out by the door, with two chairs, and be ready to serve a lady and myself."

"Yes, Mr. Felix." Charles showed no surprise, though he had never received such an order since we had been at Alastair.

I picked up a cap, and left the house. As I did so I noticed that Miss Graham had stopped walking and was gathering shells. Half way to her, and she was still absorbed in the shells, which are quite unusually beautiful here; three-quarters of the way, and she was still playing with them. I had almost reached her, and was raising my cap to speak, before she turned and saw me. A flush of surprise rose to her cheeks.

"Good afternoon,"

"Good afternoon, Mr. Hermit. Am I bothering you or preserves?"

"Not in the least. I make you free of the city."

There was a light in her blue eyes which I discovered that I remembered, but a found her riding-habit new and wonderfully prepossessing. I was taking stock of it when she interrupted me.

"I left my horse tied back in the woods. Haven't you ever seen a riding-habit before?"

"Yes. I beg your pardon, but it's so very becoming."

"Azin the quick flash, and an instant's look at the sand. Then she laughed and shook her riding-crop playfully at me.

"Beware, Mr. Hermit. Any man might say a thing like that, but I expect other things from you. That's one of the penalties of your position; you must be different. I look for the favor of romance and adventure at Alastair." She laughed at my puzzled face. "Shall I go back home again?"

"No. I will try to remember. Did you come to see the sunset from the cliff?"

"Yes. My aunt has a headache and has stayed in bed all day. I bribed our waiter to save me a little supper and send it up to my room at 8 o'clock, so you see, I'm free of the club and dinner."

She spoke impulsively, as I imagined she might do many things, and glanced at me whimsically to see of what I was thinking. She had some of the artlessness of a child playing truant from school. "I do hate stupid conventions, such as chaperons," she added, "especially in summer."

We walked past my cottage, which Miss Graham looked at with much curiosity, asking me a hundred questions about it—how I had discovered it, why I had bought it, how it was fashioned inside, and how I did my marketing. I told her I had the same butcher they had at the club.

"You must be hungry," I said at last, "lunch at noon, no supper until 8. I should like to offer you my cottage's hospitality."

"I was looking for the flush that I knew would come, and was not disappointed."

"Thank you," she answered, "but you see—what would people think if they looked in your dining-room window and saw me taking tea alone with you?"

"I don't care what they think," I answered.

She shook her head so decisively that I knew she meant it.

"At least, we will have a cup of tea on the beach," I said, "out of doors—oh, all the world may see us if they choose."

"Splendid!" she cried, and jumping up, led the way down from the heights.

On the smooth sand some distance from my door Charles had placed the little table. Two chairs faced each other; plates, napkins, and a centerpiece of beach-marshmallows were the decorations, and my man, as straight and rigid as an Egyptian idol, stood a short distance off. Miss Graham gave a little cry of pleasure.

"It's like the Arabian Nights," she exclaimed. "The whole thing seems to have sprung out of the sand."

"I seated her at the table, Charles," I ordered.

"You may serve the tea, Charles," I ordered.

He brought forth the tea-pot, and was about to pour the tea into our cups when Miss Graham expostulated. "It's the woman's place to do that!" she exclaimed, and hurriedly surrendered the tea-pot into her care.

"How many lumps of sugar?" she asked, with the delicate superiority of a hostess to a guest.

"Two."

"Will you have lemon or cream?"

There were both; I thanked my stars that Charles was so thoughtful.

"Lemon."

I received my tea-cup and a moment later had the satisfaction of hearing Miss Graham say that the brew was delicious.

"And such pretty cups! I don't believe you're a bit of a hermit, but a very pampered old squire."

"We use these only on state occasions, for our honored guests," I explained.

"But I don't feel as if this were a state occasion," she answered. "It seems quite as though we'd been doing this all summer."

"I wish you had," I said, quickly.

"I mean, it seems so usual," she said.

"I had no idea when I came in at the back door that I should find such a pretty picture awaiting me in front." He bowed to Miss Graham. "Where is the horse, Barbara, that goes with your habit?"

"I left him in the woods. He's used to standing." She turned to me. "Mr. Selden, have you met Mr. Islip?"

"Yesterday," I answered. "He lunched here."

"Yes," put in Islip, "and he gave me as good a lunch as he's giving you tea. Really, Selden, you're not living up to your reputation as a reclusé." He passed, looking from Miss Graham to me. "I hate an interloper, but I'm afraid that's the part assigned me. When you didn't appear at dinner, and couldn't be found, I volunteered to hunt. I was getting quite worried over the disappearance. Your Aunt Elizabeth—"

"Is ill in bed with a headache," said Miss Graham.

"Quite so; so we didn't like to tell her. I took all the responsibility on myself. I may have looked somewhat sharply at Islip at those words, for when I turned to the girl I caught an amused gleam in her eyes."

"Thank you, Rodney, Aunt Elizabeth would thank you, too, if she knew."

The young man flushed and bit his lip. Miss Graham had a provoking tone when she smiled. I felt sorry for him.

"Won't you sit down and have some tea?" I asked.

He shook his head. "I must be getting back, now I have found her."

He was too polite to look at his watch, but we both knew what he was thinking. "I left my horse in your back yard."

Miss Graham rose. "I must go, too. Thank you, Mr. Selden, for the sunset and the tea. Mr. Islip will find my horse and go back with me." Her eyes were dancing as she looked from one to the other of us, and I hardly wonder, for I felt distinctly out of sorts all of a sudden, and Islip's face wasn't as cheerful as usual.

Charles brought Islip's horse down to the beach, and we three walked up to the point in the pines where Miss Graham had left her mount. There we separated, he dismounting when the summer was young and I know many a story of the sea-gulls. Miss Graham was a flustering listener, her lips slightly parted, her eyes alight with interest.

"You must be hungry," I said at last, "lunch at noon, no supper until 8. I should like to offer you my cottage's hospitality."

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EVENTS OF THE DAY

News Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

A labor crisis is fast approaching in Sweden.

Great Britain has begun building an aerial navy.

A French aviator has reached a height of 800 feet in his aeroplane.

The whole Missouri Pacific system is to be merged into one company by Gould.

Chicago carmen threaten a general strike and police are drilling to be ready for trouble.

Two Italian children have been abducted in St. Louis and are held for a ransom of \$25,000.

The Wright brothers are busy making further changes and improvements in their aeroplanes.

An official report on the Osaka, Japan, fire, says 11,368 buildings were destroyed, but that only one life was lost.

The governor of Guadalajara, Mexico, says there were 15 persons wounded in the recent rioting there and none killed.

A homing pigeon was turned loose at Las Vegas, N. M., and made its way to Chicago, a distance of 1,255 miles, in six days.

The Spanish revolt may spread to Madrid.

The czar is in France visiting with President Fallieres.

Count Zeppelin has made a flight of 220 miles in his airship.

Major Burnham has found evidence in Mexico of an extinct race.

Governor Shallenberger and a party of 50 will tour the Pacific coast.

Chicago school authorities are to do away with high school societies.

A streetcar strike involving every line in the city threatens Chicago.

The Chinese vice consul in New York has been murdered by a crazy Chinaman.

A daring robber held up a Vancouver, B. C., bank in broad day, but secured only \$100.

Spokane police will overlook the anti-cigarette law during the National Irrigation congress.

The king and queen of Great Britain reviewed the great naval pageant, which was made up of a line of war ships seven miles long.

An explosion of gasoline at St. Paul caused the death of five persons and the injury of seven others. A four-story building was also destroyed.

Goldfield, Nev., mines with a capital of \$19,000,000 have been consolidated.

MOTORMAN IS BLAMED.

Evidence Shows He Ran by Switch Near Coeur d'Alene.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 3.—In the collision of two passenger trains on the Coeur d'Alene & Spokane railway Saturday afternoon, two miles west of Coeur d'Alene, 12 persons were killed and 102 injured. About 60 of the latter sustained only slight injuries and are not in hospitals.

Motorman Campbell, of the wrecked train, who was reported among the dead last night, is alive today, but it is thought it is only a matter of a few hours until he dies. He was badly mangled in the vestibule of his car, and is barely breathing.

Campbell stated tonight that he understood his orders were to meet the other train at a siding five miles from where the collision occurred.

It is learned from an official who declines to be quoted that Motorman Campbell, of the wrecked train, the extra which was wrecked, had orders from the dispatcher to pull out of Coeur d'Alene and to take a siding about three-quarters of a mile out, in order to allow the regular eastbound train to pass. He passed that siding, either forgetting his orders or imagining he could make the next siding, about another mile ahead. It was between the two sidings that the collision occurred.

ACAPULCO IN RUINS.

Destitute Inhabitants of Mexican City Face Famine.

Mexico City, Aug. 3.—A dispatch from Acapulco today states that 73 distinct shocks of earthquake have been felt there since the first shake Friday. The city has been destroyed and the inhabitants face a famine. During one of the shocks a tidal wave engulfed the harbor and a number of lives were lost.

Chilpancingo also has been practically destroyed. What the earthquake of Friday failed to do was accomplished by the stronger one Saturday, which either leveled or rendered uninhabitable every building in the two places.

All the markets at Acapulco were destroyed in the shocks of Saturday and the country people are afraid to take in more produce to the town. People are camping in the public squares and have no food. The buildings standing are being leveled by dynamite, as they are little more than tottering walls.

During the heavy shock Saturday the water in the harbor receded 23 feet, and then rushed back, covering the docks and piers, causing considerable damage. The people are suffering from exposure. The tents in the public squares and streets do not keep off the heavy rains that fall at this season of the year.

Funds are being raised in Mexico City to relieve the distress of Guerrero. In Mexico City Saturday the shock was heavier than any other yet experienced. So far as known no lives were lost in the last tremor.

REBELS DECLARE REPUBLIC.

Don Jaime de Bourbon to Lead Revolution in Spain.

London, Aug. 3.—Quickly following messages received here early today that Spanish troops had been repulsed in a collision with revolutionaries at Barcelona, came a report that the insurgents in that city had proclaimed a republic.

Color is lent to the report by other dispatches emanating from Cerbere on the Franco-Spanish frontier. These tell of a continuance of fighting between the troops and revolutionaries in Barcelona, showing the government has not gained control of the insurgents, as censured dispatches stated.

Officials of the Spanish government at Madrid and other points have contended for several days that the rioting was the work of anarchists and socialists. These claims are challenged by a message received yesterday from Barcelona by way of Cerbere stating:

"Nine thousand armed revolutionaries have formed a committee of public safety. A meeting of Carlist leaders has been held at Figueras, and the arrival is expected of the pretender, Don Jaime de Bourbon, in order to place himself at the head of the rebellion."

Opium in Machinery.

Manila, Aug. 3.—The government is pressing the investigation of what appears to be an extensive opium smuggling plot which was brought to light by the discovery and seizure of 460 pounds and 72 ounces of cocaine ingeniously concealed in a shipment of mining machinery brought from Hongkong. Louis Grant, an American business man of considerable prominence, has been arrested charged with being implicated in the smuggling plot, and it is believed that several others are being closely watched by the special agents.

Ship With 3,000 Overdue.

Durban, Natal, Aug. 3.—Some alarm has been created by the non-arrival here of the British steamer Waratah, from Sydney, for London. She left Port Natal July 26, and since then has not been seen by any vessel. A search has been instituted for her. The Waratah has 3,000 persons on board.

DISCUSS IRRIGATION

Reclamation Chiefs Gathered at Portland for Conference.

NO NEW PROJECTS ENCOURAGED

Claims on Fund Double the Amount Available—Eleven Millions to Be Appropriated.

Portland, Aug. 3.—An apportionment of the reclamation fund among the various government irrigation projects for the year 1910 will not be determined until Secretary of the Interior Ballinger holds a further conference with the officials of the reclamation service today. Mr. Ballinger yesterday held a preliminary conference with these officials, at which were present the supervising engineer of the six divisions into which the entire reclamation field is divided. There is to be apportioned for these projects about \$11,000,000, but the demands for funds aggregate an amount fully double that available.

The conference, which was an executive one, was held in the offices of the reclamation service in the Beck building. There were present all of the directing and supervising officials of the service. In addition to Mr. Ballinger they were: F. H. Newell, director; A. P. Davis, chief engineer; O. H. Ensign, chief electrical engineer; D. C. Henry, consulting engineer, and the following supervising engineers: F. E. Weymouth, Idaho division; L. W. McConnell, Central division; H. N. Savage, Northern division; C. H. Swigart, Washington division; L. C. Hill, Southern division, and E. G. Hopson, Pacific division.

"Today's conference was only preliminary and there is nothing definite to announce regarding the possible apportionment of the reclamation fund, for the reason that final conclusions were not reached," said Mr. Ballinger last night. "The various supervising engineers presented their demands for funds with which to carry on the work undertaken by the government, during the ensuing year. These requests will be considered further at another conference which will be held tomorrow. It will not be until after tomorrow's hearing that I will be able even roughly to determine how the funds for this work shall be expended."

"From the fact that the demands for money far exceed the amount of funds that will be available, I find it will be a difficult job to decide on any apportionment that will satisfy all. Oregon has not been receiving its share of the proceeds from the sale of public lands within its borders, as contemplated under the reclamation act. To see this state next year receive more nearly its share of this fund is another problem with which I am confronted, especially in view of the increased demands coming in from other sections of the reclamation field."

GENERAL STRIKE CALLED.

Open Secession Reported in Many Communes of Spain.

Bayonne, France, Aug. 3.—With all trades unions in Northern Spain declaring a general strike today, and with several communes in Catalonia having proclaimed a republic, conditions in Alfonso's kingdom are anything but satisfactory. While the government on the one hand sends out reassuring dispatches to the effect that it has the revolt in Barcelona and neighboring districts thoroughly under control, on the other hand it admits that it has seized the telegraph and telephone lines in the Biscayan provinces, in an effort to keep the revolutionaries and strikers from communication with each other.

This conflict of official reports, taken with the fact that the municipality of Palamos has declared itself free and independent, lead unbiased outsiders to believe that the revolt is anything but suppressed, and that while revolutionists may be cowed in Barcelona itself, they are waiting in small bands in the hills for more reassuring times, and will then reassert themselves.

Naval Tragedy Rumored.

Provincetown, Mass., Aug. 3.—Eleven torpedo boats in the guise of an enemy made an attack on the battleship fleet engaged in maneuvers here tonight, and an unconfirmed rumor has reached this town that one of the attacking boats suffered a serious accident. The attack of the mosquito flotilla was made without general knowledge of the fleet officers, in order to test the ordinary watchfulness of the lookouts. If an accident occurred, it is thought that one of the bigger ships may have run down a torpedo boat.

Alabama First at Income Tax.

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 3.—The house of representatives yesterday unanimously ratified the proposed income tax amendment to the Federal constitution. The senate will vote on the question of ratification Wednesday.