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The Pirate of Alastair

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CHAPTER XVIII.

I was up the stairs like a flash, to find Duponcau, one of the old broadheads in his hand, holding the balcony. Men's heads were to be seen just above the flooring of the porch, where the invaders had climbed by means of my trellises, but the owners of those heads seemed very little disposed to come farther. They had no reserves to cover their attack from the protection of the dunes, and Duponcau was proclaiming that he would behead the first rascal that raised himself another inch. At the ring of determination in his voice, no wonder that no one came on. I had barely reached his side, however, when a man flung a handful of sand full in Duponcau's face, temporarily blinding him at the same moment that another leaped up the trellis and vaulted over the balcony rail. I met him face to face, and recognized the surly chap who had spied on me that first day when he had not gained his balance when I fell upon him, hoping to topple him back against the rail. Instead, his feet shot out from under him, and, clutching at me, he fell flat on the balcony. He lay there panting a second, his arms about my back, while I tried to get my hands upon his chest to push myself up. Suddenly his grip tightened, and with a lurch, he rolled me over, so that now I lay underneath and pinned by his arms. Then he tried my nose, and hands on my chest, sought to drive the breath from my body. He was heavy, and I felt myself going, drawing each breath harder, seeing red more dully, when with a jerk the pressure lightened, and I looked up to see Charles, his brawny arms about the man's shoulders, slowly but inexorably throwing him over on his side. His hands relaxed, there was a groan, and the man lay flat on his back, Charles securely kneeling on him while I struggled to my feet.

Meantime Duponcau, his sight clear again, had held the balcony, and more, had driven the men down the supports by striking with his sword over the edge. "Throw him over," he commanded us now, and quickly we had the hapless creature up on the railing and had dropped him into the sand below. He fell with a soft thud, and we turned to other matters.

It was high time. Baffled at the balcony, the enemy were already trying to batter in the front door. At the first sounds below-stairs, Rodney had drawn my dinner-table and the heavy oak settle across the door, and fortified it with every heavy weight in-doors. Now the battering began, and Duponcau and Charles joined him while with an axe I found in my den I hacked away the trellises that climbed to the balcony. Vertly the fight was hot when I would cut down my own property.

Crash—crash! A heavy log struck the front door and ripped away a panel. The log was withdrawn, there was a shout, and again came the thudding crash, splintering the upper part of the door and carrying clear in to the settle. I was mad, mad through and through, at the thought of Charles face told that he was the same. We built up the barricade, we tried to stay it against the next assault, but this time the upper part of the door burst inward, and we were almost face to face with the foe. Rodney and I examined the dining-room table into place, and threw the chairs behind it. I cared little now if all the furniture were beaten into splinters.

"Now!" cried Duponcau. There was a boom, a crash, and the battering ram shot half way into the house. As it cleaved away the door, Duponcau leaped high on to the wreck of the table and laid about him with his sword. I saw one man fall sideways, and the rest, startled into fear by this man with eyes ablaze, stand, hesitate, and fall back.

"Come on!" he cried. "There is room for two abreast!" But no one came on; the passage through that open doorway looked dubious.

A hurried conference, a quick dispersal, and then the enemy was back, armed with clubs cut from the woods. Now they came on with a rush, and the battle joined. Pistols were discarded; it was to be a fight of our old rusty swords, and sticks found by Charles, and the staffs of the pines. Two men leaped into the breach and fell on Duponcau, another slipped in and fell to Rodney's care, while Charles and I gripped our weapons and waited. Duponcau thrust at one of his assailants and with a jerk threw the other across the broken table almost at my feet. A blow aimed at my head fell on Charles' staff, and he had the man reeling in a corner with a sudden thrust of his arm. Another man followed, and he and I laid about each other, blow falling on sword, and sword on pine-wood. We had the advantage in that we stood on the chairs, the table, and what was left of the door, and the enemy had to spring against our entrenched position. Face to face with us, toppling over the broken furniture, their armor passed, and gradually we drove them back, pressing them out of the doorway harder than they had pressed in. The man opposite me aimed a savage blow, I dodged, and, grappling with him, threw him with all my strength across the table. From there Duponcau

rolled him out against his comrades. All this time Monsieur Pierre had fought like a demon, but now one man fell against his legs, while another struck him a glancing blow across the shoulders, and before he could gain his footing he fell from the table back into the room, striking against the settle. He lay there still. Rodney was in his place, and I jumped beside him.

"Now!" I cried, and a moment later we had what was left of the enemy safely at bay.

The attacking party gathered together, and, with many ill looks at us, finally withdrew. Charles pulled the man he had in the corner up before us, and asked what should be done with him. I pointed out to where the others were turning up the beach.

"It seems almost too good for him," said Charles.

"Yes," said I; "it does." I had to hold myself tight in check now as I looked at my broken door and devastated room.

"Get out," I cried, "before I begin to talk to you, and tell the rest of your gang that the next time they batter in a man's house I hope they get their just deserts. A nice band of buffoons they make! The next time you look in this door there'll be murder done. Get out!"

The man got out, helped over the barricade by a non-toe gentle lift from Charles.

I turned to Duponcau; he was just sitting up, rubbing his shoulders. He struggled up to his feet and looked about him.

"I'm afraid, Selden, you'll never forgive yourself for sheltering me. I didn't think it would really come to this."

"I did," I answered. "I knew it, and I knew you'd beat them off. But if they ever come again, it'll be the end of one or the other of us."

"I'd better surrender," he said.

I gave a short laugh. "I'd put you in chains first. This is my house, and I have what guests I choose, and all the powers of Europe shan't prevent me! Do these people think we're living in the Middle Ages?"

Rodney puffed at his cigarette as at once.

"Yet I've grown very fond of the man," he said presently. "He's brave, and he's a gentleman."

"I'm fond of him, too. I wouldn't give him up now for the world. I intend to stay right here until something happens."

Rodney finished his cigarette and threw it away. "If you don't mind," he said, "I'll steal over to your farmer's and ride horse to the club. I've a feeling that something may be doing in the outer world, and that I ought to get next to a ticket. It'll not be long, and I don't think they'll come back before afternoon."

"Go, by all means. The man will give you the horse and show you an inland road, so you'll not fall in with these people. We can get on all right until night-fall."

Rodney started to leave, then turned again.

"I was sore," he said, "that first afternoon when I found you and Barbara having tea here. I'll admit that I'd followed her from New York, expecting to have a clear field; but—well, one can't always get what one wants, and there's luck in this sort of a fight, just as there is in the street; but it is a good fight, and that's more than I can say for some of the affairs one sees in town. I'm not sore any longer."

He smiled, and somehow his genuineness brought me to my feet.

"It's a square fight all round," I said. We went down-stairs together, and I pointed out the way to the farmhouse. Then I returned to my den to finish my pipe, and to wonder if Rodney was going to the club for news or only to see Barbara. The brief glimpse of her that morning had certainly set up both a thrill.

The hours slid past without exertion on my part. Duponcau and I had lunch a little after twelve, and then I returned to the study and stretched myself on the leather couch, with a book before my eyes. The summer sun, warm and sensation-dulling, came in through the window, and the salt breeze was as heavy on the eyes as poppies. The world drowsed, the beach and my house were too warm and lethargic for action, and my eyes

closed despite my best intentions. "Sigh long, deep, and like a tired child, without dreams."

There was a man's step on the stairs. I sat up and rubbed my eyes; I stretched forth my arms and put my feet to the floor. Rodney entered and dropped into the leather arm-chair, an ironic smile on his lips, his eyes bright with the news that he brought.

"Well," I said, "I certainly never should have thought it."

"No," I assented; "never, never, never."

"How do you know?" I demanded.

"It's public property. It's all in the papers," he added, pulling a newspaper from his pocket and flinging it over to me. "He escaped from France on a merchant vessel, and landed on the New England coast, carrying with him papers and securities of the greatest value. A score of men have been trying to bag him and the papers without unnecessary noise."

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy 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.

Many anarchists are being found in Spain and arrested.

Canada has grabbed a large area of Polar land for Great Britain.

America will be first to examine and report upon Dr. Cook's Arctic records.

Restaurants and schools are being closed at Madrid, Russia, on account of cholera.

The Great Northern plans a mail train to run from St. Paul to Seattle in 47½ hours.

New York Republicans have nominated a man for mayor who is practically unknown.

Nine men are dead and two dying as the result of an explosion and fire in a Roslyn coal mine.

Seventeen balloons competed for the Bennett cup at Zurich, Switzerland. Nine nations are represented.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise says miscegenation is a menace to the Jewish race and to Christianity in general.

An American mining syndicate is making millions by working the tailings of ancient Mexican mines.

The University of Nebraska has given out that it does not want college toughs, nor "sissies," and that no student who worked his way has ever disgraced the institution.

The special train of the president's party is composed of plain coaches.

The president gives assurance that Vancouver barracks will not be moved.

The National German Alliance of America will take up the cry of anti-prohibition.

President Taft spent two days in Portland and declared them the pleasantest of his trip.

Harriman's interests will be handled by three men, Robert S. Lovett, J. C. Stubbs and Julius Kruttschnitt.

The chairman of the Republican county committee of New York will try to stop the voting of dead men's names.

The Kansas state board of health has declared itself against the wearing of beards and will try to have its rulings enforced by law.

A wealthy Grand Army veteran was so badly crushed in the rush to see Taft at the Portland armory that he died on the way to the hospital.

Charles W. Morse, New York financier, convicted of violating national banking laws, has paid off \$7,500,000 of his indebtedness, and says he will now pay the remaining \$500,000.

Severe fighting between the Spaniards and Moors continues.

Sir Thomas Lipton would like another chance at the America yachting cup.

Chief Forester Pinchot fears trusts are after water power sites in the West.

An American fishing vessel has been seized for poaching on Mexican fishing preserves.

After a long fight Mrs. Yerkes has been granted a third of the estate of her husband.

General Grant says he will quit the army if he can't be given all his time to temperance.

The survey has begun on the last link of the California railroad into the Klamath country.

The sultan of Morocco has put El Roghi, the pretender, to death, using the most horrible cruelty.

W. A. Clark, Jr., son of ex-Senator Clark, of Montana, has discovered a process for smelting zinc ore and may become the zinc king of the country.

One man was killed and eight others injured in a collision between a passenger train and work train on the Puget Sound railroad at Garrison tunnel, Montana.

President Taft has declared himself in favor of ship subsidy.

NO PERPETUAL RIGHTS.

Mining Congress Proposes American Law on Water Power.

Goldfield, Nev., Oct. 5.—The American Mining congress closed its 12th session here after adopting a resolution calling upon the national government to legislate against perpetual franchises for water power or water rights in Western states, and urging that similar state legislation be passed without waiting for congressional action.

The apex law, under which the discoverer of a mineral lode or vein can follow it outside the lines of his claim was another subject of discussion, and its repeal, with the substitution of a law making the side lines of a claim its limits when continued downward vertically, was urged.

Wildcat mining schemes were placed under the ban by the congress, which urged state and national legislation to prevent the operators of such schemes from diverting money of investors that might otherwise be used in developing legitimate properties.

J. H. Richards, of Boise, Idaho, the retiring president of the congress, was given a handsome service by the delegates.

Los Angeles and Spokane have developed a lively rivalry for the next session of the congress. This question will be decided by the executive committee.

FARMERS FLOCK TO CANADA.

Fully 70,000 American Settlers Have Crossed Border.

Winnipeg, Man., Oct. 5.—American farmers by the tens of thousands are now pouring over the boundary into the Canadian West. According to a statement made by the deputy minister of interior at Ottawa, the invasion of Americans into Canada will total over 70,000 for the present year.

In the beginning of this across-boundary movement the newcomers were largely from the Middle states, but this year they are coming from almost every state in the Union. Not only is the quantity satisfactory to Canada, but the quality of settlers is rather improving than otherwise.

Practically, the official report says, 60,000 Americans this season entered Canada, and every man, woman and child was possessed on an average of \$1,000 in stock, cash and effects, meaning that they brought into this country nearly \$60,000,000.

W. J. White, head of the Canadian Immigration agencies in the United States, says this year's immigration from the United States has increased fully 30 per cent and that next year he expects to see about 115,000 Americans settling in the Canadian West.

NINE DEAD IN ROSLYN MINE.

Fire Follows Gas Explosion—Shaft Is Furnace Blast.

Roslyn, Wash., Oct. 5.—Fifteen men are believed to have been killed or fatally injured in an explosion of gas in the shaft of mine No. 4, of the Northwestern Improvement company, at 12:45 this afternoon.

The mine in the neighborhood of the shaft is burning fiercely, flames rushing through the shaft with an awful roar. The electric pumps are cut off, and the water supply in the city is very low. It is thought the fire in the shaft will affect the other mines, but it may be six months before the shaft can be put in working condition again. It is said that the shaft is caving in and other explosions may occur at any time.

Shops Are to Be Doubled.

Sacramento, Oct. 5.—Reports have been received here to the effect that the New York office of the Western Pacific has sent back plans of the railroad shops to be built in Sacramento with instructions to prepare specifications for buildings double in size. The original plans called for an expenditure of \$750,000 while the proposed shops under the new scheme will cost \$1,500,000.

Further indication of the move, as advanced by local railroad men is that the Western Pacific contemplates running lines up and down the state.

Pope Too Ill to Receive.

Rome, Oct. 5.—For several days the pope has been ill, but he continued to see visitors, hoping to overcome what is considered a slight indisposition. Yesterday he received in audience one of the archbishops, who noticed that the pontiff appeared tired and languid. After the audience the symptoms became aggravated, there being considerable pain and swelling in the leg, which indicated recurrence of the gout. Although the attack is slight, the pope's doctors have insisted upon complete rest and audiences are suspended.

St. Yves to Run No More.

Montreal, Oct. 5.—Henri St. Yves, the famous French long-distance runner, collapsed in the 23d mile of a race here today. Physicians declared his heart was affected and that he probably would be unable to run again. His opponent, Hans Holmer, of Quebec, finished strong, covering the Marathon distance in 2:32:40, a new record, if the track is found to measure correctly.

HELP CONSERVATION

President Says Congress Must Enact Necessary Laws.

CARRY OUT ROOSEVELT POLICIES

Looks to People to Enforce Laws Against Monopoly and Not Let Good Times Blind Them.

Sacramento, Cal., Oct. 5.—After making one of the longest jumps of his trip and traveling for 25 hours through the state of Oregon, and the northern half of California, President Taft arrived last night at 7:10 p. m.

The president selected for the principal feature of his speech the subject of the conservation of natural resources, in which he declared anew that before many of the Roosevelt policies of conservation can be carried into effect confirmatory and enabling legislation will have to be secured, and he pledged himself to bring all the power he possesses to bear upon congress to pass the laws that are deemed necessary.

Speaking from the car-end at Dunsmuir today, Mr. Taft said:

"I am on a tour of some 13,000 miles and I am trying to gather information as we go with reference to the condition of the country and at the same time to give you a superficial aspect of the man whom it has been your good or bad fortune to elect president. I think that personal touch between the people and those whom you honor by delegating authority temporarily is a good thing, so that you may know when I make my mistakes, and they are represented to you with a great deal of emphasis, that I am still a poor mortal praying for assistance and hoping that you will forgive human error."

"Everywhere in this country I have found evidences of prosperity from Boston to Portland, and if signs do not fail, we are upon an era of business enterprise and expansion that has never been seen in this country before."

Now with that I would not have you forget that here are certain responsibilities. We have had evils growing out of our prosperity. Men have seized power by means of accumulation of wealth and its use in methods that are not legal and cannot be approved, by way of monopoly and otherwise. Now, we are attempting by the general law of the United States to suppress that kind of abuse. They were brought to the attention of the people in a marvelous crusade by my predecessor, Theodore Roosevelt, and it is my duty to continue those policies and to enforce them as far as I may and put upon the statute books, or at least recommend to congress, that there be put upon the statute books those laws which shall clinch the progress which was made under him, which he preached and which we all look forward to as a permanent condition.

"Now, my fellow citizens, as I look out upon this audience, I feel sure that you are not only healthy in body but healthy in mind; that you are in favor of the good things; that you are in favor of decent government; that you are in favor of decent men and decent women and that you look forward to the future as a time when we shall all grow better. The truth is that money and wealth contribute nothing unless they enable us to make ourselves better, unless they enable us to think something of others and to help others—those who are down—onward in the progress of life. We cannot all be altruists in the sense that we can devote our attention to somebody else all the time, for we have to look after ourselves and our families, but I am sure that in the last generation there has been an improvement throughout our country with reference to a charitable feeling towards all, and a desire on the part of each to help all."

Fernanda Weds Count.

Paris, Oct. 5.—Miss Fernanda Wanamaker, daughter of Rodman Wanamaker, and granddaughter of John Wanamaker, was married today to Count Arthur de Heeren, son of Count Heeren, of Paris. There were two ceremonies. The first was in the Catholic church with full orchestral accompaniment. This was followed by a Protestant marriage service, the Rev. Alfred G. Mortimer, of Philadelphia, officiating. Henry White, American ambassador, and Marquis Lel Muni, Spanish ambassador, were witnesses.

Smugglers Win Battle.

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 5.—Using their train of pack burros loaded with contraband goods as breastworks, a gang of smugglers battled with a squad of rurales near Sabinas, in the state of Coahuila, Mexico, and came out victorious, forcing the rurales to withdraw and escaping with their goods into the mountains. One smuggler was killed and seven rurales wounded.

A friend's faults should be known but not abhorred.—Portuguese.