

A PERSON OF SOME IMPORTANCE



By LLOYD OSBOURNE

She shrank with the best and kindest fellow in the world," he exclaimed as she shrank at the sight of a stranger. "This is Captain Schwartz of the schooner Esmeralda, who has dropped from heaven to rescue us."

"But what do you want with all those things?" asked Chris, to whom a sea shop was a novelty. "Sell them to the noble savage at 300 per cent profit," returned Schwartz, laughing.



"Where you like, old chap," put in Schwartz royally, "though if you will listen to me, Mrs. Broughton, you will go on to Malaita, where my wife is, and the captain can get a good position."

CHAPTER XIV. A Startling Discovery. LIN days had passed since the dingy east end beyond the Golden Gate and where three tufts of farewells left them to shift for themselves—ten days of heavenly peace, with the sails scarcely touched and rustling softly before an unrelenting breeze. In all there were seven men forward, who might have been seven authors, from the assiduous way they read—grave, oldish men for the most part, always gined to books under that tarpaulin in the waist. Herman was the only youth among them—all, white-blond Herman, who tried to make friends with the passengers till he was squelched by the mate.

fact dawned on Matt that Schwartz was no seaman at all, but a landman masquerading as the master of the vessel. Was it possible that they were prisoners on this singular ship—comfortable, well fed, politely treated prisoners? To increase Matt's misgivings, Chris, who was a lighter sleeper than himself, had been hearing "noises" in the middle of the night. She described them as "funny, snappy sounds" that commenced after Schwartz had passed their door and looked in, as though to assure himself that they were asleep. She was so positive of this that Matt determined to stay awake one night and see and hear for himself. If it were fancy on Chris's part the sooner she was undeceived the better, for she was nervous and frightened and had moments of passionately wishing they had never set foot on the Esmeralda.

A peculiar jarring sound became faintly audible, as though some machinery had been set in motion. But it was too irregular for machinery and had an indescribable thrilling quality that Matt was at a loss to account for. The cabin shivered with it. It was as fine as the lash of a whip and as vicious, as it seemed to sting the air. Matt leaped from the bunk, despite Chris's entreaties. By George, he was going to see what it was. Follow Schwartz and find out.

It was an astonishing sight that met his gaze. Forward of the foremast was a sort of hut constructed of mattresses, forming a windbreak or shield, open only to the fore-castle. Within it, seated on a box, was Herman, bent over an apparatus and causing it by means of a small brass handle to emit that astounding buzzing as well as an incessant sputter of sparks and flashes. There was no listlessness now in that gawky youth. His expression was keen; his hand moved the key with lightning precision; he had an unmistakable air of mastery and skill as of a man engaged in something he excelled in.

"Wireless! Of course it was the wireless! Matt had read of it, but had never seen it before in action. Zi-ziz-ziz-ziz-ziz-ziz! The brass lever darted up and down, lingered and snapped amid a splutter of sparks and flashes; the captain, holding a sheaf of papers with his thumb, reeled off sentence after sentence in a low, vibrant voice; the lantern light flickered over the yellow sheets, over Herman's bent head encased in a curious harness, over the gleaming apparatus. Occasionally Schwartz was warned to stop. The machine no longer transmitting, would receive. Zi, zizi, zi-zizi-zizi—with this time Herman repeating, word by word, the message thus mysteriously caught from space, while Schwartz listened darkly, with preoccupation, seeing the unseen, weighing and understanding what was being told him.



It Was an Astonishing Sight That Met His Gaze.

"They're working a wireless apparatus," he answered. "Wireless, Matt! You don't mean a wireless telegraph?" "Yes, Herman's operating it, and Schwartz is sending messages." "Is it actually sending them?" "Yes, inside a lot of mattresses by the foremast to deaden the sound of their hands and feet." "For us—yes." "But couldn't they all be punished and sent to prison?" "Possibly, if the Oregon ranged alongside. But where is your Oregon? Chris, this whole ship and the whole crew must have been waiting for us in San Francisco, like a lot of spiders for two little flies, Tokelaus! We'll never see any Tokelaus! That was all part of the scheme to hood-wink us—to get us away." "But what could they want with us?" "Want with us! Why, they want John Mort!" "Oh, Matt!"

ATTRACTIONS AT THE THEATRES

POLIS.

With the Great Leon, 'The World's Greatest Illusionist' heading the big program, the history of the greatest bill yet at the big Polli theatre in Main street is to be made known. Beginning today and continuing for the first half of the week will be shown the finest aggregation of vaudeville talent ever produced at the popular prices maintained by S. Z. Polli. Undoubtedly the greatest exhibition of the pretentious art of the magician in Bridgeport will be given by Leon & Co. the "Wonder Workers." Twenty-five weird and uncanny spectacles will be presented by this wizard worker and his company of assistants in fifteen minutes. "Fire and Water" is the chief illusion and it is one of the most mystifying and startling accomplishments ever known. There is also a riot of comedy offered in "The Other Illusions" including the "Flying Chest." A big corps of assistants and a big array of glittering paraphernalia are needed to produce the wonderful exhibition of the magician's art. Every illusion is new and original. Other big acts of merit which are the result of widespread search for the finest obtainable will be shown and it will be one of the most delightful yet produced in the program is one of the cleverest comedians of the country—Ted Burns. A distinctive change from the usual vaudeville acts is offered by LeRoy, Harvey & Co, who appear in a pleasing playette "Rained In." Jean Baldwin will furnish a riot of mirthful laughter with her song hits and jokes. The Hazeltons, a team of the classical whiffwind artists behind the foot-light are another feature. Lamont & Milham, noted for their musical ability will be a big feature of the program, and music lovers should not miss seeing them. In addition to the special two reel feature and other moving picture films, two extra photoplays will be presented at every matinee.

LYRIC

One of the greatest and most wonderful pictures ever produced will be shown for the first and only time in Bridgeport, matinee and evening, this Wednesday and Thursday, at the Lyric theatre. This production, which is entitled "Wild Beasts at Large," is, without doubt, the most remarkable animal picture ever taken. The picture is not only remarkable from a spectacular standpoint but has a big laugh in every scene. In addition to the above feature the well known fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk" will be screened. The adventures of Jack in the Giant's castle, his stealing of the hen which laid the golden egg, his trip up the beanstalk and the appearance of the fairy to Jack and the trip across the beanstalk in swan boats, the coming of Jack into his inheritance after the death of the Giant; are all depicted in this charming film. Four of a highly entertaining quality will be shown. One of the pictures for Wednesday and Thursday will be a superb production of Harriett Beecher Stowe's immortal story "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

PARK THEATRE

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN." Local theatre patrons will be afforded an opportunity next Wednesday at the Park theatre to witness a highly artistic and enjoyable presentation of the greatest drama ever written, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Leon & Co. The intense scene in which the child "Eva" breathes her last is the supreme dramatic moment of the play. The performance is maintained at a high standard of artistic excellence. Nothing has been left undone in the way of scenic aids and accessories and a competent company will insure a harmonious and thoroughly satisfying production. Curiously similar to "The Garden of Allah" in its atmosphere and spirit is Frank Tinney's peculiar comedy, "The Legend of the Ring." By swift told strokes of color the picture tells its story of a man's life. In its brilliant costumes characters in bold relief, intensifying as has never before been done in burlesque. Charles Waldron offers this production to the patrons of the Park theatre. This well beginning with the matinee Thursday. The selected cast is an unusual one, including the stars, Frank Finney, the author, Minnie Burke, Sam J. Adams, Frank Mills, John W. Donovan, Brennan, Zell Clayton, Catherine Crawford, Lillian English and Helen Russell are also prominent in the brilliant cast.

"QUO VADIS."

Unparalleled in the world for photographic beauty, human interest, dramatic power and spectacular grandeur is George Kleine's production of the Cines photo-drama "Quo Vadis," which is to be the attraction for the brilliant Wednesday and Thursday matinees. Monday, Dec. 22, with daily matinees. Although this is a strong statement to make, it is fully verified by the remarkable runs this attraction has had in the Astor theatre, New York City, the Garrick at Philadelphia, McVicker's in Chicago, Tremont theatre in Boston and a host of other cities under the most adverse circumstances and in summer time, too, when every other dramatic form of entertainment has failed to attract the public into the theatre. This fact alone is sufficient substantiation of its great popularity and that may be made about this truly wonderful photo-drama.

THE PLAZA

The time has arrived when tired, footsore Christmas shoppers are everywhere in evidence and what better place could be wished for to obtain a few hours' rest and refreshing enjoyment than at the comfortable Plaza where Manager Callan has prepared an entertainment feast seasoned to suit the palates of the most discriminating Christmas shoppers? For the first half of the week, the orchestra of Pleasure will perform their really marvelous feats. These amphibious actors, who exhibit almost human intelligence while going through their astonishing list of trials, are among the highest trained sea act ever presented on the stage. Adair and Wyant have an offering that is bound to score heavily with local song lovers. Miss Adair possesses a stunning personality and they are both splendid singers, while

AMUSEMENTS

KEENEY'S EMPIRE THEATRE. TONIGHT'S FEATURES: The Mystery of the Yellow Room (THREE REELS). A thrilling story of how a clever reporter unravelled an apparently unsolvable mystery. The White Squaw "101 Bison"—2 Reel Drama. OTHER NEW PICTURES. BALCONY 5c ORCHESTRA 10c. Afternoons and Evenings Continuous 1:30—11 p. m.

LYRIC MONDAY AND TUESDAY Wild Animals At Large The Greatest Animal Picture Ever Produced. Jack And The Beanstalk The Well Known Fairy Tale That Can Be Enjoyed by Both Old and Young.—In Three Reels. ALSO TWO OTHER FEATURES. WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY UNCLE TOM'S CABIN A Superb Production of Harriett Beecher Stowe's Immortal Story In Three Reels. MATINEE 10c CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE 1 TO 10:30 5c EVENINGS 10:30 ALL SEATS 10c

POLIS WHERE EVERYBODY GOES TODAY THE GREAT LEON World's Most Wonderful Man—Astonishing—Bewildering—Not a single effect produced by Leon & Co. has ever been performed by any other magician. LEROY HARVEY & CO. JIM AND ESSIE HAZELTON LAMONT AND MILHAM JED BURNS JEAN BALDWIN 6,000 Feet First Run Photo-Plays Extra Photo-Plays Shown at the Matinees for the Benefit of the Ladies and Children. Mat., 5c, 10c; Eve., 10c, 15c, 25c

EMPIRE Two excellent features will be shown at this popular playhouse today. A thrilling three reel drama entitled "The Mystery of the Yellow Room," and a two part "101 Bison" drama, "The White Squaw." Neither of these photo-dramas have been exhibited in this city before. In fact, the management holds exclusive contracts for nearly the entire daily program. In addition to the feature pictures, other new pictures will be shown. This theatre is enjoying a most gratifying patronage, due entirely to the quality of pictures shown and the manner in which they are shown. There has been recently in this cozy theater which has been recently renovated and is one of the leading playhouses of the city.

PLAZA Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday HULING'S EDUCATED SEALS A Marvelous Display of Almost Human Intelligence ADAIR AND WYANT JOHN W. DONOVAN "The Chauncey Olcott of Vaudeville," in Songs and Stories TURNER AND GRACE Juggling Pantomime Novelty MARDO AND HUNTER "The Blight of Wealth"—2 Reels "Four \$100 Bills," "How It Worked," "Wild Indian" Mat., 1:30-4:30, 5c & 10c Eve., 7 to 10:30, 5c, 10c, 20c

PARK THEATRE TELEPHONE 3000 Wednesday Matinee and Night UNCLE TOM'S CABIN WATCH FOR THE PARADE Mat. 10c, 25c. Eve. 15c, 20c, 30c, 50c

OBITUARY William O. Coulter, known to many in this city, succumbed to an attack of Bright's disease at his home in Old Saybrook, Conn., yesterday morning. For many years he was prominently identified with one of Saybrook's hotels, the Coulter House, and was a Knight Templar, and Mystic Shriner. He was charter member of the Middle-town lodge of Elks. Besides a widow, one son and two daughters survive.

MOLLAN'S SHOES Received as gifts at Christmas time carry joy with every pair. FOR WOMEN Warm comfortable felt slippers of pretty design. Beautiful slippers for all evening and social events in satin, patents, kid, gros-grain. Fine dress boots of the very best makes and newest styles. FOR CHILDREN Slippers and shoes, plain or fancy—always useful and gladly received. FOR BOYS High cuts in black or tan, strong, sturdy shoes for everyday wear. Dressy shoes in patent or dull leather, made in button or lace. W. K. MOLLAN 1026 MAIN ST.

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MEATS GOING UP But Frisbies Pies remain the Same. Full weight for 15c. At your grocers. SIDEWALKS—Sand and Gravel THE BURNS CO. 952 Main St., Room 501 BROKEN STONE, All Sizes, ROOFING

Kelley's Cigar Store 141 FAIRFIELD AVE. The best cigars made to improve and domestic brands. Complete line of smokers' supplies. JAMES H. KELLY

Every Woman is interested and should know about the wonderful Marvel Douche. Ask your druggist for it. If you cannot supply the name, we will send you one free of charge. Marvel Douche, 44 E. 23d St., N.Y. For sale by Alling Rubber Co., 1127 Main Street. Mail orders solicited. Hoffman Typewriter Exchange 379 Main and 54th St., Tel. C 17

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BOXING EXHIBITION, Eagles' Hall. Held by Liberty A. C. First Star Bout. YOUNG McAULIFFE VS. TOMMY HOUCK 124 Pounds Second Star Bout AL KETCHEL VS. TOMMY GINTY 125 Pounds Monday Eve., Dec. 15, 1913. Admission:—\$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00. T 12 s' p. HALIBUT 10c lb SPANISH MACKEREL 10c lb GREEN BLUEFISH 10c lb FLATFISH 5c lb BOSTON BLUES 5c lb W. D. COOK & SON, 43 WATER STREET