

Progress' Short Stories.

Sketches of Personal Adventure Submitted in Competition for a Prize of Five Dollars.

CAPTAIN JACQUES.

The night is dark, and the moon has gone out, possibly to get full, but of course that is beyond mortal ken. The great river rushes along silently and the little waves curl around the bows of yonder small schooner, standing so dark against the waters.

Everything speaks of peace, but ah, no! Around the stern of the vessel floats a small boat crowded with as rascally a lot of vagabonds as ever cheated the gulls.

Another and another, and soon a flotilla is noiselessly rowed to the bank. As soon as a slight grating is heard the occupants leap ashore and the boats are gently drawn up on the beach. A low murmur is heard as the men form up on the beach and soon the word "March" is given, and they disappear in the gloom.

Let us follow them. Deep silence prevails till the leader observes by the scarcity of timber that they are approaching a settlement.

A halt is called and the men quickly remove their shoes and stack them by the roadside, for now they are on a well defined path.

They then proceed cautiously. But alas for human enterprise! One of the men plants his bare foot solidly on a large, healthy and quarrelsome Scotch thistle.

Like the Dane of old he gives vent to his injured feelings in an outcry, which is a mixture of Indian warwhoop and steam calliope. The captain swings around abruptly and a pistol cracks. That settles that point.

Concealment is now fruitless and the privateer's men, which is a polite name for "pirates," throw secrecy to the winds and charge on the town, the whole palisade of which gleams dimly through the all-pervading darkness. The reason of all this is: At the seige of a small town some miles away, by Captain Jacques, as this captain is called, and a troop of French freebooters, the inhabitants of St. Christopher had lent a hand to beat off the enemy. The captain had now come for revenge.

Suddenly the beacon on the village church tower flamed out and discovered the French rushing down to battle, and soon it shone on a strange scene.

Figures could be seen flitting hither and thither and out of the smoke of the battle, for now had developed into a regular battle, came flashes and gleams, shouts and curses. Whenever a brigand managed to scale the wall he received a dose of boiling hot water that, strange as it may seem, effectually cooled his ardour.

Still, rocks are but rocks, townsmen but townsmen, hot water but hot water, and discipline will tell every time. Slowly, but no less surely, the plucky villagers were driven from the bulwarks, and once inside, the enemy had it their own way.

A mighty wail of woe went up as the shouts of the pirates echoed through the streets between the blazing houses. Firebrands were everywhere dropping on the little cottages and when a sheet of flame enveloped the little church tower the people lost all heart, and ran like stricken deer.

Everything of value, including the silver ornaments and utensils in the church were carried to the ship, and all that night mighty fires burned on the beach and the silver and precious metals were melted into ingots and stored in an iron box in the hold.

"Well, comrades," said the captain, "we'll away for the West Indies." "Huzza!" shouted the crew; and the sails were immediately set.

Down the St. Lawrence she scudded, and the crew sang and danced under the calm, starlit evening, till one night Perce Rock loomed up on their starboard quarter.

Two or three sailors were grouped around the capstan, smoking, and one happened to glance at the Rock. "Wonder if we shall see the 'Spirit of the Rock, tonight,'" he murmured, "did you ever hear of that?"

"No, said one, 'tell us, Jean.' "And so I will my pretty dear. Once upon a time a beautiful girl who lived on this river, was beloved by a good young man, who lived in St. Malo. She also, my children, was beloved by a bad man who lived like a roe, nowhere in particular, but who had a place just above Quebec. Well, her lover wrote for her to come to St. Malo to be married, and so she started on a vessel. The wicked man heard of this, and intercepted the vessel with his own, slew the crew, scuttled the ship and took 'ma belle,' on board his schooner. He swore she must marry him, so see jumped overboard and drowned herself. Suddenly Perce Rock was sighted, he saw a beautiful girl, clad in white, standing with outstretched arms in front of the Rock. Now, would you believe it? That ship turned to stone along with her crew, and she drifted to the rock, and became part of it. And that woman appeared there ever since at night."

"Mon Dieu! Look! Look!" shouted one, pointing to the great black face of the cliff. A chorus of cries followed.

There against the rock, her arms outstretched stood a woman all in white. "O, Mon Dieu! Mon Dieu! This is bad-bad. Something is going to happen to the ship; for she never appears unless to bring bad luck to the spectator," groaned the Captain who had seen it all from the cabin door.

In three days they cleared Anticosti and sailed south-east through the Gulf. Suddenly one morning the lookout hailed. "Below there."

"Ay, Ay!" "Sail in sight." "What is she, and where?" "Three points off the starboard bow, a New England cruiser." "Run up our colors and boatswain, pipe all hands on deck," ordered the captain. Tumble up men and run out the long Tom."

A shot across the bows brought the schooner to a standstill and her colors fluttered up, the French tricolor. In those times a French vessel had no show at all, so the Yankee ran up, "Surrender to his gracious Majesty," or something like that, and pulled the tampions out of his guns.

The two vessels were only fifty yards apart and the Yankee was getting ready to fire. "Let him have 'Long Tom,' Francois," said the French Captain.

Both pieces belched forth at once, and the schooner was unurt although her shot splintered the poop of the American. "Surrender, or by George, I'll blow you out of the water," howled the cruiser's captain as his broadside roared.

The sturdy little French tub shivered and trembled as the great balls tore through the sides, fortunately above water line but a well directed shot tore off the rudder and stern post of the cruiser and ended the fight.

But a British man-of-war appeared on the scene and so the Frenchman had to get out. "We'll have to run through Belleisle Straits, you fellows," he announced, "for we can't get past that man-of-war."

So the sails were set and the vessel tore through the water and left the war ship far behind. Night came on dark and windy and the water of the Strait were churned and lashed into foam.

The Captain left the poop deck and anxiously watched the narrow passage ahead. "Furl all sail, there!" he shouted "we'll run under bare poles." The mainsail was all that was set and while the sailors were trying to furl it, a blast came down and tore it out of the bolt ropes and it disappeared in the gathering gloom like a great white pall.

With a sigh of relief the Captain saw the open sea beyond Cape Bauld and was just humming a French chanson with an idiotic refrain when an appalling shock sent him reeling against the wheel.

The vessel had struck on a sunken rock and probably was sinking. Leaving a sailor at the wheel to keep her head up, he rushed forward to where the sailors were trembling on deck. The carpenter sounded her and reported the well all right, but in the hold was a hole, at the after bulkheads, as big as a man's hat. In this the water was pouring in torrents and soon the vessel would go down. "Man the boats," ordered the captain, and the boats were lowered and filled with goods and men.

One boat carried the great chest and after all was unloaded the captain left his vessel, with tears in his eyes. In fifteen minutes she sank in eight fathoms and the adventurers went ashore. By the pale light of the stars the box was buried on the shore and the troop started off for the interior.

They were never heard of again, so the natives probably murdered them for some other outrage. However, the box remained there for some one hundred years or so when it was found by a Quebec farmer and sold to the treasury. Thus perished the robbers and their gold. PERCE ROCK.

MY ADVENTURE.

Had I known on that clear morning of April, what should befall me ere I returned, I would scarcely have set out, with my faithful dog Fox, on a hunting cruise.

It was early in the morning when I started, with my gun over my shoulder and my lunch-bag on my back, and Fox close at my heels.

I travelled for an hour or so until I arrived at the hut of an old trapper, called "Jack Strides." Finding Mr. Strides at home I entered into conversation with him on the subject of game. He gave me some sage advice and warned me not to let the beasts get the best of me. I scuffed at this, but two hours afterwards wished I had taken his advice a little more to heart.

However I set out again and in a few hours time reached where I considered shooting would be. I strove to find some large game but met with no success at first. At last I heard a chirping over my head and saw a squirrel on a limb above me.

"Better squirrels than nothing" I thought, and so fired a shot at the little animal, which stood there mockingly looking at me. I missed my aim; tried again, with no better success; the third time I broke the limb off and the squirrel jumped to the ground and leapt to a large mound some twenty feet away. I fired again at it and again missed, but this time the shot went into a clump of bushes, from which I immediately heard a low growl, whereupon a large bear came into view; and then I realized my act: the squirrel was perched on a bear's den, and now I was obliged to face a hungry bear.

I quickly loaded my gun, took deliberate aim, and fired at the bear. It missed him. The bear growled and advanced toward me, while I regained my feet, as by the kicking of the gun I had toppled over.

My courage now left me, and I did the worst thing possible; ran as fast as I could. But the bear gained on me, and so I decided to climb a tree, and accordingly made tracks for a large pine near by. But to my horror lying near the bottom of the tree was an immense wild-cat an animal more to be dreaded than the bear.

I did not see the animal until a few feet from it, and decided, as he was asleep to risk my life and jump over him. I did so and in a few seconds was launched in the tree. But the bear was there nearly as soon as I was. Seeing the wild-cat brunt stopped to investigate. Meanwhile brother cat had awaked from his slumbers, and raised his head in great surprise, as much as to say, "What are you disturbing me for?"

The cat saw me before it did its four-footed cousin, and made an attempt to reach me but an unsuccessful one. Where has that fox gone to? I wondered as the always faithful canine had disappeared entirely from view. But I had little time thinking about him: the two animals engaged my attention.

Suddenly the ferocious cat made a desperate plunge and reached the limb on which I was clinging, breaking the limb off close to the trunk, I fell together with my four legged adversary to the ground, landing squarely on top of the bear. Then I heard a shot and heard no more.

When I next awoke I was lying in a low cot in Jack Strides' cabin. Beside me stood my dear dog Fox and Jack himself. Slightly muddled in mind I enquired, "Where am I?"

"Your safe and well now," was the reply, and upon my enquiring how I came there, he continued: "This morning, about two hours after you left me, I was fixing my guns and other hunting effects when this dog came running toward me, barking for all he was worth. I knew something was up and took my gun and followed the dog, which by this time was running back in the same direction he came. I followed him until I arrived where you were up a tree and seeing the fix you were in let drive, and fixed the bear forever. Then with another shot ended the wild cat, although he made some hard efforts to get the best of me. I brought you here and here you are, to remain until you are well, for you are hurt considerably."

"God bless you, and Fox," and I fell asleep. The next time I awoke I was in my father's house, where I had been carried. I am entirely well now of my wounds, but the next time I will think before I act, and the scars on my body will ever hold in my memory the most exciting adventure I ever had. SIR THOMAS KATIE.

BORN.

Waterloo, N. B., to the wife of Howard Barbour, a son. Halifax, April 7, to the wife of C. A. Norton, a son. Amherst, April 18, to the wife of B. C. Munro, a son. Wolfville, April 17, to the wife of Chas. Roncetti, a son. Halifax, April 30, to the wife of Thomas Glenn, a son. Charlottetown, April 15, to the wife of James Phelan, a son. Moncton, April 22, to the wife of Peter Duxbury, a son. Moncton, April 25, to the wife of J. H. Thompson, a son. North Sydney, April 20, to the wife of George Burke, a son. Grand Harbor, April 20, to the wife of Judson Foster, a son. Yarmouth, April 13, to the wife of Wm. C. Allen, a daughter. St. John, April 22, to the wife of George Mason, a daughter. Waterford, N. B., to the wife of Milledge Kenzie, a daughter. Sackville, April 15, to the wife of John F. Milton, a daughter. Truro, April 28, to the wife of Edison Graham, a daughter. St. John, April 29, to the wife of Harry W. DeForest, a son. Sussex, April 23, to the wife of James L. McCrossin, a son. Amherst, April 18, to the wife of T. Sherman Rogers, a son. North Sydney, April 14, to the wife of Jas. A. Stubbs, a son. Kentville, April 17, to the wife of Gerald L. Ward, a daughter. Sheet Harbor, N. B., April 18, to the wife of Chas. Cook, a son. Elgin, N. B., April 9, to the wife of Moses Bannister, two sons. Upper Sackville, April 14, to the wife of Hiawatha Dixon, a son. Freeport, N. S., April 16, to the wife of Capt. Geo. Parker, a daughter. Centreville, N. S., April 17, to the wife of T. W. Langille, a son. Tenonago, N. S., April 6, to the wife of W. F. Stevens, a daughter. St. Joseph's, N. B., April 12, to the wife of E. T. Baudet, a son. Halfway River, N. S., April 15, to the wife of Newell Paul, a son. Halfway River, April 15, to the wife of Samuel Rocco, a daughter. Halfway River, N. S., April 21, to the wife of Ford Fullerton, a son. Alms, N. B., April 22, to the wife of John Albert McKinley, a son. Sandy Cove, N. B., April 13, to the wife of Dr. Rice, a daughter.

Middleton, N. S., April 20, to the wife of Capt. J. B. Tingley, a son. St. George, April 20, to the wife of Capt. S. W. Dick, a daughter. Fredericton, April 22, to the wife of Fred St. John Biss, a daughter. Sheet Harbor, N. B., April 2, to the wife of Tobias J. Douglass, a son. Birch Ridge, N. B., April 16, to the wife of Rev. J. B. Hopkins, a son. Grand Masson, April 17, to the wife of Capt. Irwin Ingalls, a daughter. West Caledonia, N. S., April 15, to the wife of Owen Scobie, a son. Albert, N. B., April 24, to the wife of Isaac C. Prescott, a daughter. Victoriaville, N. S., April 8, to the wife of Aaron Wessell, a daughter. Halifax, April 20, to the wife of Quarter-master Sergt. Quinlan, a son. Dawson Settlement, N. B., April 16, to the wife of Ronald R. McDonald, a daughter. Chatham Settlement, N. S., April 24, to the wife of Moses Chapman, a son. Gooden Road, N. S., April 26, to the wife of Chaplain Gooden, a son. Upper Musquodoboit, N. S., April 20, to the wife of Medley Butler, two sons. Chapman Settlement, N. S., April 23, to the wife of Lucas M. Casper, a son.

MARRIED.

Halifax, April 28, by A. C. Chute, Louis Pomperin to Alma Eliza Roast. Fredericton, April 25, by Rev. J. Noble, Alfred St. John, April 25, by Rev. E. W. Sibbald, John E. Moore to S. Carry Holly. Newcastle, April 6, by Rev. Geo. Harrison, George Black to Annie Forsythe. Halifax, April 18, by Rev. Dr. Partridge, Henry Cream to Adelaide Paine. Barons, N. B., April 20, by Rev. Wm. Ross, John Campbell to Matilda Scott. Cornwallis, April 17, by Rev. F. H. Axford, Walter Ross to Annie Butler. Fredericton, April 23, by Rev. M. Hartley, Fred B. Morgan to Bertie Namor. Antigonish, April 20, by Rev. J. R. Munro, James Ross to Janet L. McMillan. Kent, N. B., April 12, by Rev. T. S. Vanwart, Jonathan Taylor to Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hickey. St. John, April 24, by Rev. J. W. Clarke, George F. Straight to Flora McPhee. Chatham, April 26, by Rev. Jos. McCoy, Philip Thibodeau to Mabel McKee. Geary, N. B., April 18, by Rev. S. J. Perry, Phillip Smith to Lizzie Emery Smith. Lindsay, April 18, by Rev. A. E. Downey, John J. McCormick to Caroline Baker. St. John, April 24, by Rev. J. W. Clarke, John G. Myers to Mrs. L. Armstrong. St. John, April 25, by Rev. J. M. Davenport, William Hamilton Hegan to Grace Ring. Parrboro, April 23, by Rev. W. H. Evans, Oscar Parson to Irene Winter. St. John, April 25, by Rev. G. O. Gates, Caleb Larkin to Mrs. Margaret Goss. Douville, N. B., April 25, by Rev. P. D. Rees, Lewis Hanson to Melinda Allen. Hartland, N. B., April 22, by Rev. S. W. Shaw, George Hall to Sadie Jackson. Fredericton, April 25, by Rev. C. W. McCully, Achilles Wood to Annie Burchill. St. John, April 23, by Rev. W. W. Hamme, Benjamin Henderson to Margaret Paul. Newport, April 23, by Rev. James Falconer, William McKay to Mina Cameron. Halifax, April 25, by Rev. E. H. Hartley, Hartley F. Armstrong to Letitia A. Ronkey. Gordonville, N. B., April 23, by Rev. J. J. Barnes, Charles Steering to Agnes B. Jones. Woodstock, April 23, by Rev. Canon Neale, George A. Ingraham to Blanche Berk. Hillsboro, N. B., April 24, by Rev. W. Camp, Alexander B. Stearns to Mrs. Laura J. Evans. St. John, April 25, by Rev. G. M. W. Carey, Stephen H. Shaw to Annie M. Dickson. Halifax, April 25, by Rev. H. H. McPherson, R. Dickson Gladwin to Agnes J. Marshall. Pictou, April 18, by Rev. Geo. S. Carson, Rev. Alex. Falconer to Mrs. Eliza Copeland. Halifax, April 21, by Rev. A. C. Chute, Frederick LeMessurier Paine to Eleanor Skimming. Chelsea, N. S., April 3, by Rev. W. E. Gelling, Henry Fisher to Augusta A. Hiett. Barrasville, C. B., April 24, by Rev. A. F. McMillan, Annes M. Cormack to Jessie Young. Aylesford, April 19, by Rev. J. W. Brancroft, David B. Hendon to Mrs. Laura J. Evans. Windsor Junction, April 17, by Rev. Father Young, W. W. Embree to Mrs. L. O'Brien. St. John, April 24, by Rev. G. A. Hartley, Capt. David McT. Foote to Maggie May Howard. Waterford, N. B., April 19, by Rev. H. N. Nobles, William J. McPartridge to Mrs. C. S. Gaudin. Florenceville, April 25, by Rev. A. H. Hayward, Charles A. Giberson to Gertrude A. Wheeler. Stevelake, N. S., April 24, by Rev. F. S. Collins, Henry Vernon Dohard to Maggie T. McKenzie. Liverpool, April 21, by Rev. A. W. M. Hartley, Lorenzo A. Corkum to Agnes Celia Gaudin. Lower Sackville, N. S., April 24, by Rev. J. M. Fisher, Alonzo M. Sellar to Annie E. Fisher. Grand Harbor, N. B., April 24, by Rev. W. S. Covey, Albert Henderson to Catherine Cheney. Flatlands, N. B., April 16, by Rev. George Miller, William Gordon Gooing to Sarah Annie Fort. Liverpool, N. S., April 24, by Rev. G. W. F. McMillan, Mrs. M. A. Mathers to Carrie Louise Cook. Seabrook, N. S., April 21, by Rev. S. Davies, Rev. J. Douglass Bonwick to Mrs. Emma Louise Spencer's Island, N. S., April 12, by Rev. E. K. Ferguson, John D. McCulloch to Florence C. Morange. St. John, April 25, by Rev. J. J. Testalut, assisted by Rev. Dr. Van Rev. George Muller Young to Lida Barker McLeod. Halifax, April 25, by Rev. E. P. Crawford, assisted by Rev. E. B. Norman and Rev. G. M. Duffas to Winifred Blanche Corbett. St. John, April 25, by Rev. Job Shenton, assisted by Rev. Oscar Groulx, L. Allan McAlpin, M. D. to Jennie Lodge Shenton.

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