

### Romance of Lost Treasure.

PIRATES HOARD—AND THE  
PIRATE'S GHOST.  
By B. L. HADFIELD.

It is a common thing for the youth of the city of New Orleans to be seen in the Gulf of Mexico to be searching for lost treasure. A small sailing boat is hired, well equipped with provisions, and the party is exploring the waters of the Gulf. There are not wanting "salts" of the coast who have spent years of their lives in search of buried treasure. The search is often fruitless, but sometimes a fortune is obtained for a few dollars. The search is often fruitless, but sometimes a fortune is obtained for a few dollars. The search is often fruitless, but sometimes a fortune is obtained for a few dollars.

Lafitte is numbered amongst the pirates, but, strictly speaking, pirate never was. His reputation was made in the nature of a receiver of stolen goods, and clearing-house for the jewels and miscellaneous property which the real pirates of the Gulf of Mexico had to dispose of. Lafitte was a Frenchman, by the name of Jean Lafitte, who had set up an establishment in Bourbon Street, New Orleans, for the purpose of receiving the goods of the pirates.

A FRIEND OF PIRATES.  
It so happened that the location had been chosen for his forge brought him contact with seafaring men, and with the pirates, who were in the habit of smuggling themselves ashore the lookout for someone to buy the goods they had appropriated at sea. It occurred to the nimble-minded Lafitte that there was an opening for a regular pirate's receiver, some man whom the criminals of the ocean might come, knowing that they had organized for turning their goods into cash. From the first, this project was successful. Lafitte was soon deemed on as he could be trusted implicitly, and he proved himself a past master of the art of smuggling. His gains past the eyes of the watchful authorities.

Soon Lafitte gave up his blacksmith's business altogether, and moved out of New Orleans, set up headquarters at Grand Terre in a region known as Barataria, and quite near the city. Here he prospered exceedingly. His settlement of pirates rose around him, in which he was looked upon as "king." In the bay, near his fortified house, could be seen any number of piratical craft, and Lafitte had in an instant call to his aid a midable army of cut-throats ready for the most desperate enterprises. Naturally, such an organization of men could not escape the notice of the authorities, and in 1814 an expedition, under Commodore Patterson, was sent against him, and bombarded his settlement, not without some effect. At that time the Americans and British were at war, and Captain Pickens, of His Majesty's Navy, heard that the renowned Lafitte, had fallen from the country of his adoption, and resolved to hunt him under a flag of truce, and offered him \$20,000 dollars if he would join the British service.

A PATRIOTIC PIRATE.  
But, criminal though he was, Lafitte was true to his friends; he indignantly refused to parley with Lockyer, and informed the Governor of New Orleans that at the same time offering his services and that of his army, to the American cause.

But the people of New Orleans, knowing that their city was to be attacked, and honouring Lafitte for the part he had played, brought such pressure to bear on General Jackson, that he was forced to accept the offer of the "hellish bandit," and to give his their great bravery at the subsequent siege of New Orleans. Lafitte, in spite of a pardon from General Jackson, felt that he had been deceived. General Jackson had also sought his information, and when he learned that Lafitte had been pardoned, he was so wounded the indignation of the vanity of the pirates, that he decided to leave the country and seek a home elsewhere.

Legend of Riches.  
It is not surprising, from the fact that Lafitte sailed from New Orleans down to the present time, belief has been expressed that somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico lies his hoard of the discovery of a tenth of which would make a man rich for the remainder of his life.



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### TABLE DAMASKS, etc.

- Pure White Table Damask, 58 inches wide, usual 90c. value. Friday, Saturday and Monday, 79c. per yard.
- MATRESS TICKINGS—Broad striped Tickings for Mattress, Bolster or Pillow Case. Special Friday, Saturday and Monday, per yard 27c.
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- Colgate's all round Toilet Soaps . . . . . 15c.
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### Practical Housekeepers will scent these values in white Table Cloths.

- Two clearing lines of English White Damask Table Cloths, Check, Stripes and Dice patterned; splendid quality Cloths in assorted sizes. Reg. \$2.30. Friday, Saturday & Mon. \$1.98.
- Reg. \$2.30. Friday, Saturday & Mon. \$2.98.
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In soft Tan Calf Kid, lined, Cuban heel, perforated front and sides, front flap, solid leather throughout. Reg. \$8.75. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$8.35.



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Practically everything you need will be found here for the very best prices to modest luxuries. The following are all special values for your consideration.

- SPORT HATS—Ladies' and Misses' Linen Sport Hats in mixed shades Pink and White, Rose and White, Crimson and White, Green and White and Navy and White. Reg. \$1.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday 59c.
- PEARL NECKLETS—Long Pearl Necklets, just what is needed to set off your low necked waist; add one to your outfit; they're stylish. Special Friday, Saturday & Monday 39c.
- DRESSING GOWNS—Pretty Flowered Muslin Dressing Gowns, short sleeves, roll collar, shirred waist girde; shades of Lavender, Rose and Grey; assorted sizes. Reg. \$4.50. To Clear, Friday, Saturday & Monday \$1.98.
- OVERALL APRONS—Coloured Cotton Bungalow Aprons; generous sizes, short sleeves, buttoned back, trimmed with pretty chintz; nice assortment. Special Friday, Saturday and 95c. Monday.
- CHILDREN'S COMBINATIONS—Fine White Jersey Combinations, sleeveless, drawstring at neck, fastened at back, lace knee. Reg. 80c. suit. 74c. Friday, Saturday and Monday.
- HOUSE DRESSES—Ladies' Blue Gingham House Dresses; simple in style but capable of much service; Peter Pan collar, three-quarter sleeves; sizes 35 to 44. Reg. \$1.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday 98c.
- LADIES' KNICKERS—Fine White Jersey Knickers, summer weight, lace trim, med at knee, open and closed; sizes 38 to 44. Reg. \$1.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday 59c.
- BRASSIERES—Pink and White Broad-shouldered Brassieres, fastened at back, tape shoulder; sizes 42 and 44. Regular 85c. Friday, Saturday and Monday 68c.
- GIRLS' BLOOMER DRESSES—Dear little Dresses in Blue and White and Black and White cross-barred pattern, sailor collar, belt and pockets, short sleeve; fits 2 to 6 years. Regular \$1.80. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$1.15.
- BATHING CAPS—All Rubber Bathing Caps, in plain and fancy shades; specially priced for clearance this week. Reg. 30c. Friday, Saturday & Monday 25c.
- BATHING SUITS—Ladies' and Misses' Black Satin and Jersey Bathing Suits, colored trimmings of Orange, Crimson, Saxe and Rose, etc.; sailor collar, short sleeve, belt and pockets. Reg. \$2.20. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$1.60.
- BATHING SHOES—Ladies' and Misses' Bathing Boots and Bathing Shoes, in Black and White Canvas, stiffened soles; assorted sizes. To Clear Friday, Saturday and Monday 79c.

### Best and Cheapest in the long run "STARTEX" Toweling

Outwears all other makes, because it has part linen weave both ways, making it better for durability and drying dishes; equally adapted for roller or hand towel. It's a sure glass shiner and leaves neither lint nor smudge. Original price, per yard, 60c.

Friday, Sat. & Monday yard 45c.



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- BOVE HAIR PINS—Imitation Tortoise Shell Pins; in packets for . . . . . 10c.
- BANDEAU COMBS—Keep the hair tidy; imitation Tortoise shell make 17c.
- DRESSING COMBS—Strong Black, White and Blue sizes; each 8c.
- HAIR PINS—In small cabinets; lots of pins; assorted sizes; the cabinet 15c.
- TALCUM POWDER—Airtight, Wistaria and Rose, Teardrop-Gloria and others 19c.
- CARBAHA SOAP—Bach cake cake wrapped in White Terry Face Cloth for . . . . . 17c.

- WILLIAMS' DENTAL CREAM—In tube form; preserves and whitens the teeth; the tube 29c.
- COLD CREAM—Airtight Cold Cream; first aid to beauty; the tube 30c.
- SHAVING CREAM—Mennen's superior quality Shaving Cream; requires no rubbing in. Try it. 29c.
- VANISHING CREAM—Jap Rose Vanishing Cream; rose perfume; large crocks 37c.
- COLGATE'S PERFUMES—Put up in long glass tubes; fragrant perfumes; wide assortment; e a c h 15c.
- TALCUM POWDER—Babcock's Corylopsis, especially fine quality; the tin 35c.

### SEA SIDE TOWELS

- Large White Turkish Towels, heavy quality, plain hemmed ends; the kind we have been looking for for some time. Friday, Saturday and Monday, each 69c.
- TURKISH TOWELS—Another line of strong Turkish Towels, half bleach finish, assorted coloured stripes, ample size for family use. Friday, Saturday and Monday, each 65c.
- COTTON BATTING—Put up in pound bundles, hand picked, pure and sanitary. The Bundle 54c. Friday, Saturday and Monday.
- SHEET WADDING—Black or dunbleached Sheet Wadding. Friday, Saturday and Monday 18c.
- SHEET WADDING—Oil Cloth Shavings, white centre with coloured bordered and scalloped edges; per yard Friday, Saturday & Monday 10 1/2c.
- White and Coloured; per yard 7c.
- DUCHESS SETS—Very dainty, embroidered and hemstitched; 4 piece Boudoir Sets in soft white Linen. Reg. \$1.50. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$1.05.

### BEAUTIFUL PLUSH HEARTH RUGS

- ELUSH HEARTH RUGS—Beautiful looking Hearth Rugs in shades of Crimson, Green and Black, extra heavy quality; they give a real tone to your rooms; two sizes. Reg. \$10.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$9.45.
- Reg. \$14.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$13.35.
- Monday \$13.35.
- PLUSH DOOR MATS—In shades to match up with the hearth rugs, advertised herewith; distinctive looking mats. What a nice gift for some one going to be married. Regular \$5.00. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$2.79.
- STAIR CARPET—A couple of pieces of pretty Stair Carpets, standard width, bordered. Reg. \$1.75. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$1.75.
- STAIR DRUGGET—Mottled and striped centre with well. Special Friday, Saturday & Monday 55c.
- STAIR OIL CLOTHS—White and colored Stair Oil Cloths, soft rubber-like finish, will not crack, you will get surprising wear out of these. 23c. Special Friday, Sat. & Mon. per yard.
- BUSH RUGS—Heavy medium Brown Wool Blankets striped borders, ideal for campers; full size. Reg. \$10.00 each. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$6.48.

### MEN'S "Sea Rubbers"

Famous brand, knee length, real live rubber, assured service in every pair. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$5.50.

"SEA" FOAM RING RUBBERS—These are thigh length and recognized for their superior quality; we have had numerous inquiries for these; they're here now. Friday, Saturday and Monday \$7.75.

They had made great research throughout all the records dealing with Lafitte, and, scoring the assistance of charts (many of which, duly signed by the great Jean himself, had been offered them at various prices from ten to a thousand dollars), decided that a certain Hunter Island should be their first objective. Most of the smaller islands in that neighbourhood are swampy and unlikely places for the secreting of treasure; Hunter Island, on the other hand, turned out to be, though desolate, a fairly commodious spot, with a good anchorage and plenty of fresh water. Had it been chosen simply as a resort for a sporting holiday, it would have suited the Americans splendidly; its desirability was enhanced by the fact that, perhaps, here would be found the treasure of Jean Lafitte.

A FIRST CLUE.  
After spending about a week on the island, prospecting and looking eagerly for anything that might give them a clue, they did actually find an object of some interest, and one that certainly gave colour to their theory that Hunter Island was the right spot. Whilst making preparations to dig on a shore beneath a small cliff, they found a rusty sword of an old pattern, and just the sort of thing that the pirates might have left behind them. This find cheered them immensely. They had begun to have visions of the chests and their glittering contents which now they were certain Lafitte had put upon the island for them to find.

Near where the sword was found, they started digging, running trenches at right angles across the flat in which they thought the treasure lay. For two weeks they continued this work, taking occasional spells off for fishing and bathing in the sea. At the end of that time, they made another discovery that set them digging all the harder, and drove all holiday thoughts for the time from their heads. Meyer suddenly felt his spade strike some hard object. He shouted to his two companions, and, all feverishly digging in the same spot, they soon unearthed the object Meyer had located. Alas! it was not a chest of gold, nor was it anything of any great value to them. It was the skeleton of a man.

THE DEAD PIRATE.  
Although it had been lying in the earth for many years, the skeleton was in a good state of preservation, and, still hanging to it was a leather sword-belt—doubtless that which had once held the weapon already discovered. The finders of this gruesome object could place no date upon its burial, but were quite convinced in their own minds that here before them lay the remains of a pirate, and took courage. Pirates, they knew, were in the habit of burying their treasure beneath the bodies of one of their number. This was done with the object of marking the spot and also preventing people discovering the treasure should they happen to dig in the exact locality. They reckoned that anyone digging and finding a body would not have had merely opened a grave and cease their labours.

Both Meyer and Starke had read of this supposed habit of pirates, and instead of being thus bluffed out of their reward, considered that at least they were about to realise their fondest dreams, and bring forth out of the ground such wealth as would dazzle the world and put an end forever to searches for the hoard of Jean Lafitte. THE GHOST OF LAFITTE.  
During the night Meyer was roused from sleep, and declares that he saw the pirate's ghost rise from where they had been digging. After glaring at him fixedly for a time, the figure suddenly vanished.

Of course, the finding of the treasure ought to have followed this dramatic incident as a matter of course. In fiction no other chain of events would be possible; but, beyond finding an excellent spot for a summer's holiday, Meyer and Starke, found nothing—not a ducaat, a doubloon, or a diamond.

Last year, however, others were more fortunate. On September 26, 1921, this news item went the round of the papers:—"Some of the treasure which Jean Lafitte, the pirate, was supposed to have buried near Jefferson Island has been found. A New Orleans message states that several gold coins of ancient date have recently found their way into circulation, two of them bearing the date 1754. Two pots of gold are said to have been unearthed."

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