

A Female Crusoe.

On the 26th day of October, A. D. 1871, the trading schooner Little Kings sailed out of the port of Singapore, bound for the Kinderhook Islands, to the north, and only one of her crew was ever again met with. For five years before the schooner had belonged to and been commanded by Captain Ezra Williams, a Canadian from Halifax. He traded between Singapore and Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and the smaller islands of the Java Sea, and in May, 1871, died at Singapore of fever. He had been married for three years to an English woman, whose maiden name was Danforth, who had been a domestic in an English family in Singapore. She had accompanied him in all his voyages, and had secured much experience and information. As she could not readily dispose of the schooner, she determined to continue in the business, acting as her own supercargo.

Mrs. Williams secured an Englishman named Parker as Captain, another named Hope as mate, and with three Malays before the mast and a Chinese cook, and with about \$7,000 in specie in the cabin, she sailed away on her first voyage, and it was four years later before she was again heard of. The purpose of this narrative is to chronicle her adventures in the interim, as I had it from her own lips.

While it was a bit queer to start on a voyage with a woman virtually in command of the craft, Mrs. Williams had nothing to fear from her crew. The officers were good navigators, and the men willing, and all were anxious for a profitable voyage. She had no complaints to make until the Islands had been reached. The group lies between the Malay Peninsula and the island of Borneo, about 100 miles off the coast of the former, and from 250 to 300 miles from Borneo. There are nineteen islands in the group, covering a length of 120 miles by about forty broad. There are only seven or eight, which are inhabited, and at the time of which I write the people were a lawless set, and a share of them out-and-out pirates. The products were dried fish, sea shell, coconuts, dye stuffs, various herbs and roots for medicinal purposes, and several sorts of spices. The Schooner had been there once before and made a profitable trip of it. She had clothing, powder, shoes, axes, and a great variety of notions, and where none of these were wanted she paid cash.

On this trip the schooner worked to northward and made her stop at the Island of Quewang, being the third one from the northernmost island of the group. She met with a cordial reception, and at once began bartering for and receiving cargo. She was anchored in a sheltered bay, within 500 feet of the beach, and had been there five days before anything occurred to arouse Mrs. Williams's suspicions that all was not right. She then observed that the entire crew were drinking deeply of a native liquor which the natives were supplying in a liberal manner, and that some of the fellows were becoming impudently familiar. When the Captain was spoken to he laughed at her idea of trouble and promised better things, but the drinking continued. On the afternoon of the seventh day several women

CAME OFF IN THE CANOES.

One of them who could speak English pretty fairly, was presented with some ornaments by Mrs. Williams, and in return she hinted to her that it was the intention of the natives to capture and loot the schooner that night. They had discovered that there was a large sum of money on board, and they had found the crew an easy one to handle. The native women hadn't time nor opportunity to say much, but no sooner had the crowd of natives left the schooner at dusk, as was their custom, than Mrs. Williams set out to sound the alarm. Imagine her feelings when she discovered that every single man on board, from Captain to cook, was so much under the influence of liquor as to be unable to comprehend her words. She doused them with sea water and pounded them with belaying pins, but all to no purpose. The entire lot were stupidly drunk, just as the natives had planned for.

was a perilous situation for the woman to be placed in. If the natives captured the schooner they would murder every one of the crew as a natural sequence, and the first step toward capturing her had already been taken. The step she took showed sound judgment. The schooner's yawl was down, having been in almost hourly use. The native village was about forty rods back from the beach, and as the schooner swung to the ebb tide she presented her broadside to the village. When the yawl was pulled around to the port side she was out of sight. Mrs. Williams's first act was to step the mast; her next to supply the craft with provisions and water. There were an unusual number of lights burning in the village showing that something was on foot, but she had no fear of an attack until a later hour.

The natives would wait until certain that all the people were helpless.

Mrs. Williams had determined to slip away from the doomed craft in the yawl, although she had no experience in the management of a small boat. After water and provisions she brought up all her money, which was in boxes she could handle. Not a penny of it was left behind. There was a rifle, revolver, and double-barrelled shotgun belonging to her husband. These she took, together with powder, shot, and fixed ammunition. Then she gathered up all her bedding and clothing, took three or

FOUR SPARE BLANKETS

two suits of clothes belonging to the officers, and when these were in the boat she took pots, pans, dishes, and cutlery, bundled up a lot of carpenter's tools, secured two axes, a lot of small rope, several pieces of canvas, and in brief loaded the yawl with whatever was portable and handy, including the clock, compass, quadrant, sextant, and a lamp and four gallons of oil. She worked for upward of two hours getting these things into a boat, and the last articles taken aboard were meat, flour, beans, tea, and provisions from the lazarette.

It was about 10 o'clock when Mrs. Williams took her seat in the yawl and cast off from the schooner, and the tide at once drifted her out of the bay and to the north. The only thing of consequence she had forgotten was a chart of the Java Sea, which she could have put her hand on at a minute's notice, and it was the want of this which made a Crusoe of her for several years. As the yawl went to sea after its own fashion, Mrs. Williams lost the points of the compass at once. Indeed, had she kept them in mind it would have been of no benefit just then, as she had not studied the chart and could not have told which way to steer to reach another group or the land. She heard nothing whatever from the natives, but several years later it was ascertained that they did not board the schooner until midnight. The men, all of whom were still drunk and asleep, were stripped and tossed overboard to drown, and then the absence of the woman and her money was discovered. Five or six native crafts were at once sent pursuit, while the people who remained looted the schooner of everything of value to them, and then towed her out to deep water and scuttled her to hide as evidences of their crime.

After drifting three or four miles out to sea the yawl got a light breeze, and after a few trials the woman learned how to manage the sail and lay a course. She had no idea which way she was heading, but ran off before the breeze, and kept going all night and until mid-afternoon next day. She must have passed the Upnong in the early morning, but so far to the westward that she could not see it. The wind hauling at mid-forenoon altered her course by several points, and the northernmost island of the group, named Poillo was thus brought in line. The island is seven miles long by three in width at its widest part, well wooded and watered. The woman landed on the east side, at the mouth of a creek which forms

A SNUG LITTLE HARBOR.

She was convinced that this was one of the islands of the Kinderhook group, but she did not know that it was the most northerly one. By consulting the compass she got the cardinal points, but not having studied the chart she could not say in what direction any other land lay. She had seen the sails of two traders that morning, but as they were native crafts she had every wish to avoid them. The boats which were sent in pursuit of her must have taken another course, as she saw nothing of them.

When Mrs. Williams landed on the island she had no idea of stopping there for more than a day or two, or until she could decide on some plan. She had scarcely gone ashore when a gale came up which lasted about thirty hours, during which the yawl was so damaged that she must undergo repairs. She unloaded her goods on the shore, covered them from the weather, and then set out to explore the island, pretty well satisfied that it was inhabited, and hoping, if it was, that her money might secure assistance. Before night she was satisfied that she was all alone, and she made a shelter out of the blankets, and slept the night away as peacefully as if in her cabin on the schooner. Next day she exchanged her apparel for a man's suit and began the erection of a hut. In a grove about 200 feet from the beach, she erected a shelter, 10x20 feet, which withstood the storms of almost four years. While the sides consisted of canvas and poles, the roof was thatched with a long grass which she found on the island in abundance.

It took the woman about a week to construct her hut and move her stores into it and this had scarcely been done when her boat, owing to carelessness on her part, was carried off by the sea, and she now realized that she was a prisoner until such time as

the crew of some trading vessel might land and discover her. After her house was completed she made a more thorough exploration of her island home. There were parrots and other birds, snakes of a harmless variety, Borneo rats, and a drove of about 300 Java pigs, which are about the size of the American peccary, but are wild instead of fierce.

The woman had clothing to last her five or six years, but the provisions she had brought from the schooner would not supply her needs more than a few months. While hoping and expecting to be taken off almost any day, she wisely prepared for a long stay. She had fish-hooks and lines in her outfit, and with fish from the sea, meat from the woods, and bananas and wild fruits from the groves, she had a variety and a plenty. Six months after she landed a native craft put in about a mile from her hut, but

CREEPING THROUGH THE WOODS

she saw that all were Malays, and so savage in appearance that she did not dare make herself known. Seven months later a second craft sent men ashore to fill two water casks, but she was also afraid of these. She lived very quietly from that time until nearly two years after her landing, having remarkably good health all the time, but naturally lonely and cast down at times.

One afternoon, as she was in the forest about half a mile from home, having her shotgun with her, a Borneo sailor suddenly confronted her. He was entirely alone, and whether he had been marooned or cast away she never learned. As she was dressed in a man's suit he naturally took her for a man, but his first movement was a hostile one. He advanced upon the woman with a club in his hand and uttering shouts of menace and to save her own life she was compelled to shoot him.

Now and then, all through her stay, trading vessels were sighted in the offing, with now and then a craft known to be manned by Englishmen, but the signals made to the latter by means of smoke were never heeded. Her main hope was that the loss of the schooner would in some way reach her friends at Singapore, and that a searching party might be sent out to her rescue.

One day, when she had been on the island four years, lacking about fifty days, the British survey ship Sahib, then engaged in re-surveying the group, dropped anchor off the mouth of the creek, and sent a party ashore to explore the interior. I had the honor not to only head this party, but to be the first to see and to speak to Mrs. Williams. We found her in excellent health, although tanned and roughened by exposure to the weather. When she had donned her own proper apparel and had time to tidy up no one could find fault with her appearance.

After a few days we sailed for Singapore, where Mrs. Williams was safely landed, and a few weeks later a man-of-war was despatched to the island where the schooner had been seized. Natives were found who gave all the particulars, and the result was that eight men were brought aboard, tried, convicted, and swung up at the yardarm, while three more were shot while trying to escape from the island.

"What is the poetry of motion?" This is a question which has formed an unsettled topic of many discussions, but being of neither political nor religious significance, has as yet failed to produce any deadly feuds or breaches of friendship. Skaters, to a man or a woman, contend that nothing on earth can surpass the movements of an accomplished figure skater, circling and twisting about in all directions with consummate ease. This is especially the case with women, who invariably have the call on the sterner sex.

Although much enjoyment may be found in plain skating and variety obtained by means of racing and games on the ice, the pleasure is more than doubled by learning fancy figures, for the latter can be performed on a pond where it would be impossible to play games, and, moreover, do not require companionship to make them agreeable. Figure skating is an art which requires constant practice to become proficient in. Some persons are better adapted to it than others, but any person of ordinary capacity and physical strength may learn many pretty figures by practice. Some figures, such as the "spread eagle," which require great flexibility of the legs, would be a physical impossibility to many men who might in other respects be very proficient, while there are others who can accomplish all sorts of grotesque movements better than the champion, but fail on regulation figures. Thus it is that there have been certain skaters better than any one else in their own figures, who from lack of knowledge in others had no chance to win a championship contest.

To win a competition requires an all-round skater, unless he can take enough points on what he knows to overbalance what is lost on figures he cannot skate. An example of this occurred in the championship of 1887, when Robinson, the famous Canadian skater of Toronto, went to New York for the main purpose of defeating his countryman, Louis Rubenstein, of Montreal, on neutral ground. The contest was postponed on account of unfavorable weather, and Rubenstein, tired of waiting, failed to put in an appearance. Robinson never dreamed that he would be defeated, but he had to succumb to Frank E. Good of Brooklyn, who won the championship with several points to spare. Although Robinson went through certain movements to perfection, he had not studied the programme, and fell so far short on other figures that Good beat him out. Robinson is considered one of the greatest figure skaters in the world, and many believe he would have won had he practised his weak movements, for a good fancy skater can readily adapt himself to almost anything on ice.

The first requisite for figure skating is a snug fitting and comfortable shoe. There should be no unsteadiness about the foot, for there is quite enough difficulty in keeping the balance at an angle of 75 degrees with everything favorable. Many skaters wear a shoe laced an inch or two further down than an ordinary walking shoe, in order to lace it tighter around the instep. Figure skating consists almost entirely of movements on the outside and inside edges. The outside edge is the right edge of the right skate, and the left edge of the left skate. The inside edge is the left edge of the right skate and the right edge of the left skate. These are really ambiguous terms, for, strange as it may seem, there is practically no outside or inside edge. This is proved by placing one foot directly in front of the other and describing a circle on the ice, when the skater will actually be travelling on both edges. Outside and inside edges, however, are the terms used by skaters to denote the essential movements in figure skating.

A Few Hints About Oil Lamps.

The tank, or reservoir, for holding the oil should be of metal rather than china or glass. Wicks should be dry, be just long enough to reach to the bottom of the reservoir and be softly woven. They should be just wide enough to easily fill the wick holder without being pulled or squeezed in. It is necessary, too, that they be soaked with oil just before using the lamp. When the lamp is lit the wick should be at first turned down, and then slowly raised as it burns. One great essential to avoid all odors from a lamp is to have it thoroughly clean, and all charred wick and dust removed before lighting. In putting out a lamp where it has no extinguishing appliances the wick should be turned down, and a sharp puff blown across the top of the chimney, but not down on it. A little systematic care in the use of a lamp will bring, instead of discomfort, a warm, cheering atmosphere to the home.

He used to drink of pleasures cup
And found it sweet, no doubt;
He seldom with the lurk got up,
But oft on one was out.

There's now an end to all his fun
At night with gay carousers;
He's married, and his wife's the one,
They say, that wears the trousers.

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