

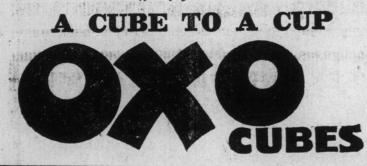
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Love in a Flour Mill,

The Romance of Two Loyal Hearts!

CHAPTER XV.

Smithers' eyees twinkled, as he said, with an irresistible gravity:

"Nonsense," says she, 'I get all the change I want; don't I go over my husband's pockets every night when he's asleeep."

laughter, amidst which Smithers remarked:

"The band will now play 'The Old surprise—for he had no idea that Smithers added music to his other accomplishments—the many-sided Cockney took out a penny whistle, and, to

this happy, careless crew were bound of a million of money." on a voyage with so tremendous an

In accordance with Vane's plan, the Hawk cruised about in a leisurely fashion, putting in at various ports. Ronald, to emphasize the assumption et? It faces west, and we can see that they had no particular object in any vessel that may approach. We'll them inwardly consumed by impaone day, Vane said quietly, but with gravely.

They had a fair wind, but the voy and lying off the northwest of Sicily Ronald's blood ran warm, and for who stood by his side, with his arm folded, and his eyes fixed on the coast-line towards which they were flying. They anchored in the bay, and the two men went ashore in the cap

It was a lovely morning, and Ronald looked round him with an admiration which, for a time, rendered him alnost speechless.

"Why, it's and earthly paradise! Friends at Home'"; and to Ronald's he said. "Treasure or no treasure, a man could spend his life happily

"In the summer-yes," said Vane with a warning look about him; but the delight of his audience, played no one was near them, and he added. the air he announced; and played it in a whisper, "You see the cliff? And the trees are there. We are standing No; it was difficult to realize that within a hundred yards of a quarter

> "Don't let's think of it." said Ronald rather thickly.

"No," assented Vane; "there's some work to do before we begin serious business. What do you think about that little rise as a site for the chal-

begin to stick it up at once." "When will you tell the men?" ask-

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their action on stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels.

other results of a disordered digestive system—is

"Not until the moment we are going tience; and Ronald's heart leapt when, to start operations," replied Vane

"Are we the only people on the island?" asked Ronald rather anxious

"Oh, yes!" said Vane. "Practically look us; and, if we were observed. we could put anybody off the scent by some excuse. We are here to grow the soil for other things. And we'd etter do our digging at night, cover

The men were told that Vane had purchased a portion of the island, and was going to make it a kind of place of call. They were delighted at the prospect of anchoring off such a charming spot, and they got the portable chalet safely ashore, and at once set to work putting it together. Furniture was brought from the yacht, and in a couple of days' time Vane and Ronald were comfortably established in the picturesque little house. The schooner was anchored in the pight of the bay, where she would be out of sight of any vessels, excepting hose sailing close inland.

Vane and Ronald superintended the perations in a leisurely way, and gave a picnic air to the proceedings by sailing and fishing in the bay, or strolling about the island with their guns. Smithers was installed at the chalet as cook and major-domo; and evidently regarded the situation with profound satisfaction.

"Seems to me, sir, that this is the est lay I've ever been engaged in chen, his precious cutty in the corner of his lips, his white cook's cap stuck n the side of his head, and apparaind o' Robinson Crusoe business with the advantage of pleasant company. It suits me better than hangin' about the Docks, sir; or even fall We've struck it soft an' no mistake, sir, as the fly said when it fell into the treacle-pot. Seems to me, the nardest thing I've got to do is to unt up something to grumble at. But I s'pose there'll be plenty o' work

Ronald looked at him sharply; and Smithers, glancing at him and then staring into vacancy, added quietly:

"I don't suppose we've brought all hese agricultural tools as ballast, sir; an' I expect we shall be usin' f 'em presently.

Ronald coloured, and regarded him ather uneasily: but Smithers' face wore an expression of innocence which would have been suitable to a but not before Smithers had remarked casually and with quiet cheerful-

"Well, whatever it is, sir, I'm ready or it, as the starvin' man observed when he saw the basin o' soup."

That same evening, when Vane and Ronald were at dinner, Ronald said, "There is nearly a full moon to-night. I feel like taking the boat and rowing over to one of the other islands.

Vane declined-said he was tired: and a little later Ronald went off by himself. As he was starting. Vane called to him. "Got a revolver?"

"No," replied Ronald, with some

said Vane gravely. "You it's not very likely. Don't forget that we're in Sicily and an out-of-theway part of it, and that the people are not particular when they are dealing with strangers. The knife first and the word afterwards is the motto of

Ronald laughed, but he loaded revolver and stuck it away in his belt. He sauntered down to the beach, where Smithers was taking a stroll and enjoying a pipe after his culinary labours:

"Shall I come and row you, sir?" ne asked: but Ronald declined his services.

There are certain times when one is desirous of solitude; and this moonlike to be alone, to forget the buried treasure, if such forgetfulness were possible, and think of his old home. of his London life, which seemed so distant and so misty now, of Evelynyes, and of the girl whom he had MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIS- MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DISseen at the mill on the moor. It



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he remembered so vividly the girl and the scene in which he had taken

He rowed slowly, easily, across to the nearest island; but, obeying some whim, did not land there, but pulled on to a smaller island lying behind the larger one. He found a suitable landing-place, ran the light dingly up the sandy beach, and, drawing per out of reach of the tide, saunter that now and again obscured the moon, but there was always light enough for him to see his way between the trees and through the under-growth.

Suddenly, so suddenly that he cinost started, he saw a figure-which trunk of a fallen tree, or lying on the ground-rise and stand in the uncertain light. Instinctively he crouched down, and his hand went to his revolver; then, to his surprise, he saw might approach him, and, if she did so, would be suspicious if she found him crouching in the undergrowth. It

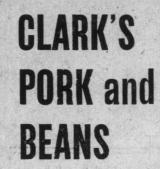
nocent expression on his presence. He waited until the moon was obscured again, then rose and approached her. She had stood quite still: an l Ronald, raising his cap, said, with careless courtesy, in Italian-they were amongst the few words he had

He saw the girl start-for it was a girl tall and slim and gracefulshe turned her head; and Ronald stopped short, stood stock still, and gazed at her in wild astonishment. For here, on this out-of-the-way island, was the girl of the mill on the

(To be Continued..)



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