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ST. JOHN'SThe Romance
of Lost Treasure.

By R. L. HADFIELD in

In the year 1568 there sailed into the Bay of Tobermory the Spanish galleon, *Florencia*. Once so stately, with painted sails and richly carved quarter, this great ship was now a battered fugitive. She had escaped the hammering of the Armada in the Channel, had weathered the gales that blew around the Orkneys, and now—mere ghost of her former self—crawled into the quiet waters of Tobermory, seeking a moment's respite.

Her commander—Captain Pareira—was desperately in need of material for refitting his ship, and provisions for his crew and the troops he carried, eight hundred men in all. As soon, therefore, as he had dropped anchor he sent ashore for what he required.

Notwithstanding the defeat he had suffered and the perils of the sea he had undergone, Captain Pareira still held his head high, making his demands upon the people of Tobermory in peremptory tones. But this manner of address getting to the ears of the lord of that part—Lachlan M'Or Maclean—answer was sent back to the Spaniard that he was at liberty to come ashore and fight for whatever supplies he needed.

In spite of his brave words Pareira was in no need for a scrap, and, moreover, was easily able to pay for what he wanted. His officers returning with statements that the Scots were inclined to mean what they said, a polite message was this time sent ashore with offers of gold.

A Feud of the Clans.

It happened that at this moment the Maclean was carrying on a deadly feud with his neighbours the Macdonalds, and he hit upon the idea of asking Pareira for the services of a few men in lieu of money for the ship's stores—a suggestion that was immediately fallen in with.

A hundred Spanish soldiers were sent ashore, and with them the Maclean harried the Macdonalds with the greatest success.

But, when the Scots returned to Tobermory, they found that Pareira had obtained from the villagers grain, cattle, and other stores without pay-

Glasgow Weekly Herald.)

ment as these goods were all in addition to those handed over in return for the loan of the hundred men. Maclean retained two officers as hostages, sending a relative—Donald Glas—aboard the *Florencia* to negotiate the adjustment of accounts.

Pareira's idea of adjusting accounts was to clap Donald in irons as a set-off against the retention of his officers, and ask Lachlan M'Or Maclean what the next step was to be.

A deadlock ensued. Maclean's men lined the shore, and a hundred yards off in the bay lay the *Florencia*, her officers, once more well-fed and haughty, hurling back at the Scots insult for insult.

A Tragic Settlement.

But whilst the two parties were thus occupied Donald Glas, in the hold of the galleon, was getting to work. Freeing himself from his chains he investigated his position, and found that he was separated from the *Florencia*'s store of gunpowder by a mere partition.

A courageous but drastic way out of the impasse suggested itself to him. Crawling through a hole made in the partition he provided himself with a flintlock and powder.

Thus the argument between the men ashore and the Spaniards at last came to a sudden termination. There was a tremendous explosion. For a second, the *Florencia* belched forth a sheet of flame, then disappeared in a rolling cloud of smoke.

When this cleared away, and the waves from the sudden eruption had quietened down, not a sign of the *Florencia* but a few scattered spars could be seen.

Donald Glas had fired the magazine, blowing to pieces himself, the ship, and her eight hundred men.

About these facts there is not the slightest doubt whatever.

The Traditional Treasure.

There is, on the other hand, considerable question as to the amount of treasure in the hold of the *Florencia* at the time of her destruction. She is said—and a great many people profess to be certain of the fact—to have been the paymaster's ship.

for the whole of the Armada, containing in this capacity no less than thirty million ducats, besides church plate of fabulous value.

Unfortunately, there are at least six other wrecks of ships of the Armada all as authentically pay-ships as the *Florencia*. The truth is most likely to be that the galleon had, like most Spanish ships, a fair treasure aboard, but that the thirty millions is the outcome of many years of talk and legend.

The Wreck Chart.

With a certain amount of shrewdness those who had witnessed the explosion immediately made a chart of the position of the *Florencia*, and from that moment thought that she might be raised have occupied the minds of many.

There are in existence papers showing that in 1640 search for the treasure was being made. The consent of Charles I., through the hands of his Lord High Admiral, the Duke of Lennox and Gordon, was given to the Earl of Argyll for search to be made in the waters of Tobermory; and in 1665 a determined effort to raise the wreck was made by the Earl of Argyll.

He employed James Maule, a diver and brecker, who had learned the use of the diving-bell in Sweden. Maule tried his luck for three months, during which time he located the wreck and raised three cannon. The greater part of his time was spent in replacing the diving-bells, and when the three months was up Maule, thinking he alone possessed the secret of diving, went off on other business, with the intention of returning at his leisure to the *Florencia*.

But the Earl of Argyll had no great opinion of this "secret" of Maule's, and himself ventured on salvage work. Employing men who had never even seen a diver, the Earl succeeded in raising six guns and other miscellaneous objects. He was followed a few years later by a German who came to Scotland with great promises as to what he would do. This man did manage to find and bring to the surface an anchor, but shortly afterwards left the neighbourhood "taking some gold, but leaving his debts behind him."

The work of attempting to raise the cargo of treasure was now made even more intriguing by the action of the Clan Maclean. Hector Maclean and his friends considered that, as it was one of their clan that had destroyed the *Florencia*, the wreck should belong to them. They, therefore, descended on Tobermory and employed their time in "sniping" at the divers whenever they came to the surface. In order to facilitate this work they built a fort near Tobermory, the ruins of which stand to this day.

The question of ownership of the wreck was made the subject of a lawsuit, in which the *Florencia* and its contents were given to the Argylls, and, on the strength of this decision, they are the property of the Duke of Argyll at the present moment.

In 1740 the second Duke of Argyll, possessing the chart made for his predecessor, had another try. With a diving-bell, he succeeded in raising a magnificent bronze cannon, which is now at Inveraray Castle, the seat of the Argyll family. This cannon, which was cast at Fontainebleau, is eleven feet long, and bears the arms of Francis I. of France, having doubtless been captured in battle by the Spaniards. When it is realized that in those days diving-bells could not go down more than eight fathoms (48 feet), and were crude and treacherous devices in the extreme, this piece of salvage work appears to be very creditable.

Still Hunting For Gold.

So, down through history, the *Florencia* has excited the curiosity—and the cupidity—of men. Time after time efforts have been made, and rewarded

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with but slight return, taking the shape of small arms, cannon-balls, and other interesting but more or less useless articles. The gold eludes pursuit.

About fifty years ago the Marquis of Lorne, looking through family papers, came across the original chart. His interest awakened, he hired a diver to work for a few days, and was rewarded with a handful of coins and a brass stanchion.

Thus it will be seen that the *Florencia* continually maintains interest in herself by delivering up small articles, but steadfastly refuses to hand over any of her supposedly vast treasure.

In 1903, when the means of salvage had assumed a more workmanlike shape, a syndicate of Glasgow men was formed with a capital of several thousand pounds for the purpose of making a serious attempt upon the wreck. The permission of the Duke of Argyll was obtained on condition that a fair share of the proceeds should be allotted to him; then work commenced.

Under Captain William Burns, of Glasgow, an experienced man in salvage work, divers and barges were obtained, and preliminary operations started. This time, no sign of the wreck could at first be found. It was supposed that the ship had sunk far into the silt at the bottom of the bay. Nevertheless, proof of her existence was forthcoming in the shape of cannon, swords, scabbards, drinking-pots, and such-like articles.

In 1905 the same people started again, this time with a steam suction dredger, the Braemar. Photographs of the bottom of the bay were secured, disclosing in one spot a great mound of silt. Doubtless the remains of the galleon were beneath it.

Divers, digging into this mound, brought out arms, ammunition, boarding-pikes, powder pans, and an innumerable number of odds and ends. In spite of the fact that not a ducat had been found, these objects cheered the spirits of the syndicate. The Braemar's suction pumps were got to work on the mound, and at last something of value was brought to the surface.

A Find at Last.

This was a massive silver candlestick, once of the design, and bearing witness to the old legend, that Captain Pareira surrounded himself with luxury and always dined "off silver." About this time, the crew of the

Braemar was augmented by the arrival of Mr. Stears, a water diver, who also claimed to be able to locate certain metals. On his orders, the Braemar was moved about the bay first to one spot and then to another. Whatever there may be in "divining" generally, Mr. Stears seems to be a skillful exponent; for by following his directions several pieces of silver plate were discovered.

The operations of this syndicate went on for five years according to the arrangement with the Duke of Argyll and during that time a large number of trifles were found. The vast treasure of the Spaniards, however, was not forthcoming.

In November of last year it was decided that yet another attempt was to be made upon the *Florencia*—this time by a Colonel Foss and Miss Naylor. They had then arrived at Tobermory to make arrangements to commence operations this spring. The year 1922 may therefore at last see the yielding up of the lost millions of the *Florencia*.

"Captain Foss," says the report, "is confident of success this time, as he has located the galleon."

There is no one who will not wish these two people luck in their romantic—if somewhat forlorn—hunt for sunken gold.

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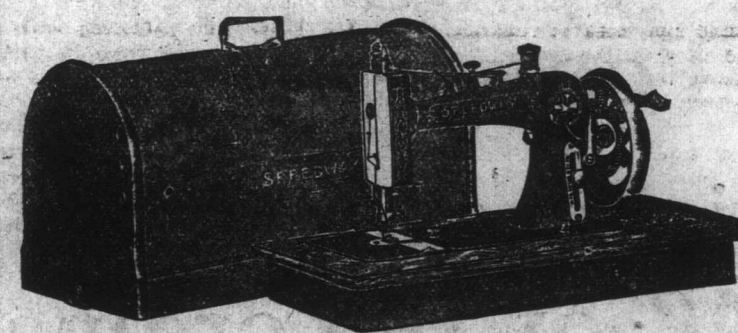
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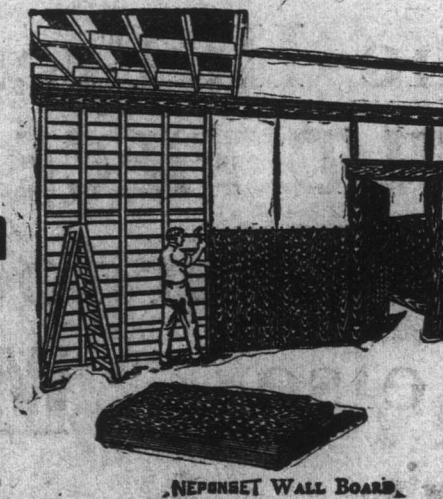
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THE GARDEN.

Now gardening is faddish, and cheerily I toil, and plant the luscious radish in dark and fertile soil; and any man is a coddish man who would my raptures spoil. Yet always and forever there is the grouchy skate, who tries to say things clever, who leans upon

my gate, and mocks my brave endeavor to keep my pea vines straight. "Oh, there are many killers to knock your garden cold," he says, "and bugs and millers, and perils manifold, and six-inch caterpillars, and cutworms fierce and bold. Too often I have seen them, where clinging herbage twines; and all these pests, between them, will kill your cherished vines, and though you, Paris-green them, they won't take in their signs. Your sweat runs in a river, your face is turning green, your muscles throb and quiver, you've worked so hard, and

even; far better take your spray and burn up gasoline. For all your peas will perish, your cabbage die, the wicksteak you cherish burn up in July, and, with a sorrow bearish, you'll wring your hands and cry." And thus men cheer the man who strives to raise some peas, stand around and bellow dire phrases like these, until his sweat yellow rivers, him cold feet and

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