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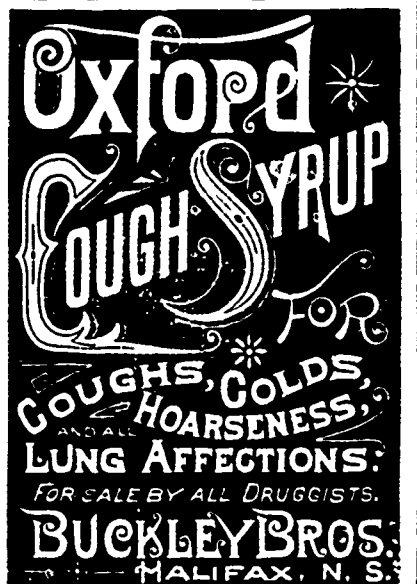
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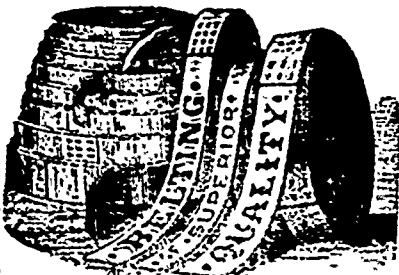
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A NOTABLE PIRATE.

One of the most noted of the pirates was Edward Teach, commonly known as Blackbeard, a title he had earned because of his extraordinarily long and black chin appendage. "He suffered it to grow to an extravagant length," we are told. "As to breadth, it came up to his eyes. He was accustomed to twist it with ribbons in small tails, after the manner of our Ramilies wigs, and turn them about his ears." In time of action he wore a sling over his shoulders with three brace of pistols, which hung in holsters like bandoliers; and stuck lighted matches under his hat, which, appearing on each side of his face, his eyes naturally looking fierce and wild, made him altogether such a figure that, says Johnson, "imagination cannot form an idea of a fury from hell to look more frightful."

He was a Bristol man by birth, had been to sea all his life from an early age, and had sailed for some time out to Jamaica, in privateers during the war with the French, but had never been anything more than a foremastman—though distinguished for uncommon boldness and personal courage—until he went a-pirating in the year 1716. Captain Benjamin Hornigold put him in command of a sloop he had taken off Providence, and the two sailed together for the Spanish West Indies, taking on the way a "billop" from Havana, a sloop from Bermuda, and a larger vessel bound from Madeira to South Carolina.

After careening on the coast of Virginia the two, with the prizes, went on to the West Indies and captured a large French Guinea-man, bound to Martinique on board which Teach transferred his flag, separated from Hornigold—whom he returned to Providence and surrendered to mercy pursuant to the King's proclamation—and hoisted the black flag on his own account.

He mounted forty guns on his vessel, to which he gave the name *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and his first engagement in her was off St. Vincent, where he took the *Great Allen*, plundered her, set Captain Taylor and his crew on shore, and fired her.

Then he fell in with the English man-of-war *Scarborough*, of thirty guns, and engaged this vessel for some hours, and until the latter thought it discreet to give over and make for Barbadoes, the place of her station. Teach himself sailed for Turniff to take in fresh water, and while there improved the occasion by capturing a sloop, the *Adventurer*, the captain of which no sooner saw the black flag hoisted than he struck and came to. Four more vessels—a full-rigged ship and three sloops—were captured in the Bay of Honduras, some ten leagues from Turniff; and three others on the way to Charleston, off which port the pirates lay for five or six days waiting for a store of medicines, which the captain of the *Revenge* sloop was sent to the Governor to demand.

More captures were made during these five or six days; first, a large ship bound for London with some passengers and a valuable cargo on board; and, secondly, another large vessel coming out of the port two "pinks" going in, and a brigantine on which were fourteen negroes. All this, done in the very sight of the inhabitants, struck a mortal terror into their souls, for they had just been visited by Vane, another notorious pirate, who had knocked down their fortifications, sacked the town, and made things generally uncomfortable. This mortal terror may have occasioned the insolent security with which Richards and the men of his party paraded the place. They walked the streets publicly, we are told, and the people, although fired with the utmost indignation, yet dared not molest them for fear of heaping more calamities upon their own heads. Blackbeard in his demand swore that if the chest of medicines was not immediately given, or if the ambassadors suffered the least insult, he would murder the prisoners taken on board the five captures, send up their heads to the Governor for his especial edification, and set fire to the vessels themselves.

Under such compulsion, the Governor was not long making up his mind. He gave Richards a medicine chest worth between £300 and £400, and packed him and his men off, only too glad to purchase immunity at so small a cost.

Blackbeard then let the prisoner and ships go, but kept about £150 in gold and silver, in addition to a quantity of provisions, &c., and sailed towards North Carolina, made friends with the Governor—who was thoroughly-paced blackguard—and surrendered to the King's proclamation, his sole motive being to look about him, or, as Captain Johnson puts it, "to wait a favorable opportunity of playing his old game over again."

Blackbeard was a beau ideal pirate, possessed with a mania for getting married. During his first sojourn at North Carolina, his friend the Governor married him to his fifteenth wife, a young girl of sixteen, whom he treated most brutally. Unlike the French Bluebeard, however, he did not, so far at least as our knowledge goes, kill any of his wives. Blackbeard did fighting, as befits an old sea ruffian, and in his last encounter, against Lieutenant Maynard, did not finally drop until he had received five pistol shots and twenty sabre cuts about his body.—*Gentleman's Magazine*.

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