



CHILDREN'S BOOK
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LOS ANGELES

BLACKBEARD



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BLACK BEARD.

EDWARD TEACH was born at Bristol: but his family connections led him to settle for some time at Jamaica. In the French war, at the beginning of the last century, he entered himself on board a privateer, where he was soon distinguished for his personal boldness and courage; but he had not the good fortune to be raised to any command, to reward his services. Disgusted at this, he joined that noted pirate Captain Benjamin Hornigold, who made him master of a sloop he had just taken as a prize; and he continued in consortship with him till a short time before Hornigold surrendered himself to government.

In the spring of the year 1717, Teach and Hornigold sailed from Providence for the main of America. They took, in their way, a sloop from the Havannah, with one hundred and twenty barrels of flour; also a sloop from Bermuda, of which one Thurba was master; they took from him on board some gallons of wine, and then let her go. Also a ship from Madeira, out of which they got booty to a considerable value.

After cleaning their vessels on the coast of Virginia, they returned to the West Indies; and in the latitude of twenty-four degrees, made prize of a large French Guinea-man, bound to Martinico. By the consent of Hornigold, Teach entered on board of her as Captain, and went a

cruizing. Hornigold returned in his sloop to Providence. At the arrival of Governor Rogers, he surrendered to mercy, according to the King's proclamation.

Aboard the Guinea-man, Teach mounted forty guns; and christened her the Queen Ann's Revenge. Cruizing near the island of St. Vincent's, he took a large ship, called the Great Allen, Christopher Taylor, commander. The pirates plundered her of what they thought fit, put all the men on shore at the above island, and then set fire to the ship.

A few days after, Teach came up to the Scarborough frigate, of thirty guns, which engaged him for some hours: but finding the pirate well manned, and having tried her strength, she gave over the contest, and returned to Barbadoes, the place of her station; and Teach sailed for the Spanish settlements in America.

In his way, he met with a pirate sloop of ten guns, commanded by Major Bonnet, lately a gentleman of good fortune and reputation in the island of Barbadoes. It is reported, that domestic quarrels made him take to this way of life, for which he justly suffered death some time after this period at Charlestown. He joined with Teach, who, for his frightful beard, which he let grow to a preposterous length, was commonly called Black Beard; but in a few days Teach found out that Bonnet was a stranger to a maritime life and discipline. With the consent of the Major's men, he placed over them another captain, of the name of Richards, to com-

mand Bonnett's sloop, and took the Major on board his own ship, telling him, "That, as he had not been used to the care and fatigues of such a post, it would be better for him to decline it, and live easy, and take his pleasure in such a ship as his, where he should not be obliged to perform duty, but follow his own inclinations."

At Turniff, ten leagues short of the Bay of Honduras, the pirates took in fresh water. While they were at anchor there, they saw a sloop coming in Richards, in the small sloop, slipped his cable, and ran out to meet her; upon which, beholding the black flag hoisted, she struck sails, and came to under the stern of Teach, the commander. She was called the Adventure, David Marriott, master, from Jamaica. They immediately commenced partners with Black Beard and his companions, and the sloop was fitted up on the piratical account.

The ninth of April they weighed from Turniff, having lain there about a week, and sailed for the Bay, where they found a ship and four sloops: three of the latter belonged to Jonathan Bernard, of Jamaica; and the other to Captain Jones.

The ship was of Boston, called the Protestant, Cæsar Wyar, commander. Teach hoisted his black colours, and fired a gun; upon which Captain Wyar, and all his men, left their ship, and got ashore in their boat.

Teach's quarter-master, and eight of his crew, took possession of Wyar's ship; and Richards secured all the sloops, one of which they burnt out of spite to the owner. They

also burnt Wyar's ship as soon as they had plundered her, because she belonged to Boston, where some men had been lately hanged for piracy; and the three sloops, which belonged to Bernard, they let go.

From hence the rovers sailed to Turkill, and then to the Grand Caimanes, a small island about thirty leagues to the westward of Jamaica, where they captured a small turtler; and from thence to the Bahama wrecks. Then they sailed to Caroline, taking a brigantine and two sloops in their way, where they lay off the bar of Charlestown for five or six days. They took here a ship, as she was coming out, bound for London, Captain Clark, with some passengers on board for England. The next day they took a vessel coming out of Charlestown; also two pinks, coming into the above place: likewise a brigantine, with fourteen negroes on board.

All these piracies being committed in the face of the town, struck terror into the people of Carolina. It had just before been visited by Bane, another notorious pirate, who had done a deal of mischief. The people, therefore, abandoned themselves to despair, being in no condition to resist their force.

The pirates had no less than eight sail near the harbour; so that none of the Carolina ships dare venture out, it being almost impossible to escape falling into their hands: and the inward-bound vessels were in the same predicament. The trade of this place, therefore, was totally interrupted. What made these misfortunes

heavier to them, was a long expensive war the colonists had been engaged in with the natives.

Teach detained all the ships and prisoners. Being much in want of medicines, he resolved to demand a chest of the Governor of the province: accordingly, Richards, who was now captain of the *Revenge* sloop, attended by some of the pirates, was sent along with Mr. Marks, one of the prisoners whom they had taken in Clark's ship, and made the demand with great insolence, threatening, if they did not send a proper chest of medicines immediately, and let the pirate Ambassadors return without molestation or insult, they would murder all their prisoners, send their heads to the Governor, and set the ships they had taken on fire.

They obliged Mr. Marks to go with the message to the council, whilst Richards, and the rest, paraded the streets in a public manner in the sight of the people, who were fired with the utmost indignation at beholding these authors of their misery, and dared not think of revenging their wrongs, for fear of bringing on themselves more calamities; and they were forced to let the villains proceed with impunity.

The council was not long deciding how to act. Though it was the most outrageous and daring affront that could be offered them, yet, for the sake of saving so many persons' lives, (and among them was some of the principal factors of Carolina, with Mr. Samuel Wrag, one of the council,) they complied out of necessity; and sent aboard a chest valued from three to four hundred pounds, and the pirates went safe back to their ships.

Black Beard, as soon as he had received the medicines and his brother rogues, let go the captured ships, and the prisoners, having first taken from them, in gold and silver, 1500l. sterling in money, besides provisions, and other matters.

From the bar of Charlestown they set sail for North Carolina; Captain Teach in the ship they called the man of war; Captain Richards, and Captain Hands, in sloops, which they named privateers; and another vessel, serving as a tender or hospital-ship. Teach now began to think of breaking up the company, and securing the money, and the most valuable of the effects, for himself, and those of his crew that he had the most friendship for, and to cheat the rest of their share in the plunder they had obtained.

On pretence of running into Topsail Inlet to clean, he grounded his ship, as if it was done by accident, and without design. He ordered Hands' sloop to come to his assistance, and get him off again; which he endeavouring to do, ran the sloop on shore near the other; and so both the vessels were lost. This done, Teach went into the Tender sloop with forty hands, and left the Revenge there; then took seventeen more, and landed them upon a small sandy island, where there was neither bird, beast, or herb, for their subsistence; and they must have perished, if a ship belonging to another pirate had not passed that way, and taken them off two days after.

In different ways, he got rid of all his crew by the most cruel means; only reserving twenty,

who were his favourites. With these men Teach repaired to the Governor of North Carolina, and submitted to his Majesty's proclamation; and received certificates from his Excellency, to secure their safety. But it does not appear that this was done through any reformation, but only to get a more favourable opportunity to play the same game over again; which he soon after effected, with more security to himself and his companions, and a better prospect of success, as he had by this time cultivated a good understanding with Charles Eden, Esq. the Governor above mentioned.

The first piece of service this kind gentleman did to Black Beard, was to give him a right to the vessel he had taken when he was pirating in the Queen Ann's Revenge, for which purpose a court of Vice-Admiralty was held at Bath Town; and though Edward Teach had never received any commission in his life, and the sloop belonged to English merchants, she was condemned as a prize taken from the Spaniards by the said Teach. These proceedings did not redound to the credit of the Governor.

Before he sailed upon his adventures, he married a young girl about sixteen years of age. The Governor performed the ceremony; as it is a custom there to fulfil the contract before a magistrate, as much as in England before a priest. It was afterwards proved, that this was the fourteenth wife he had legally espoused, whereof there were ten living. His behaviour to her was savage and extraordinary; for while his sloop lay in Okerecock Bay, and himself was on shore

at a plantation where his wife lived, who was a handsome, agreeable woman, he would sleep with her all night, and then invite three or four of his brutal comrades from on board to breakfast at his house, and oblige her to prostitute herself to them all by turns before his face.

In June, 1719, he went to sea upon another expedition, and steered his course towards Bermudas. He met with two or three English vessels in his way, but robbed them only of their provisions, and other necessaries, for his present use. He next fell in with two French ships, one laden with sugar and cocoa; and the other light; both bound to Martinico. The one, that had no lading, he let go; and putting all the men out of the ship loaded on board her, he brought it home, with all the cargo, to North Carolina, where the Governor and the pirates shared the plunder.

When Teach and his prize arrived, he went to his Excellency, and made affidavit, that they found the French ship at sea without a soul on board. Then a court was called, and the ship condemned. The Governor had sixty hogsheads of the sugar for his dividend; and Mr. Knight, the secretary, twenty: the rest was shared among the pirates.

The business was not yet done: it was possible some one might come into the river that knew the ship, and so discover the fraud; but Teach thought of a contrivance to prevent this; and, under a pretence that she was leaky, and might sink, and stop the mouth of the inlet, or cove, where she lay, he obtained an order from the Governor to take her out into the river, and

set her on fire : this was executed, and she was burnt down to the water's edge. The bottom sunk, and with it their fears of her rising in judgment against them.

Captain Teach, alias Black Beard, staid four months in the river; sometimes lying at anchor in the Coves, at others sailing from one inlet to another; trading with such sloops as he met for the plunder he had taken, and would often give them presents for the stores and provisions he took from them; that is, when he happened to be in the humour: at other times he made bold with them, and seized on what he had a mind to, without asking their leave, well knowing they dared not complain.

He often, to amuse himself, went on shore among the planters, where he revelled night and day, and took licentious liberties with their wives and daughters; in which excesses he was usually accompanied by his favourite comrades. The planters generally received them with civility, it is to be believed, more out of fear than love. Sometimes he used them courteously enough, and made them presents of sugar and rum, in recompence of what he received from them: at other times he behaved to them in a lordly manner, and would lay some of them under contributions. Nay, he often proceeded to threaten the Governor; not that he had cause, but only to shew that he dared to do it.

The sloops trading up and down this river, being so frequently pillaged by Black Beard, they consulted with the traders, and some of the head planters, what course to take. They

saw it would be of no use to apply to the Governor of North Carolina, to whom it properly belonged to afford redress; so that if they could not be relieved from some other quarter, Black Beard would be likely to reign with impunity.

With as much secrecy as possible, they sent a deputation to Virginia, to lay the affair before the Governor of that colony, and to get an armed force from the men of war lying there, to take or destroy this bold and daring pirate.

The Governor of Virginia consulted with the two captains of the Pearl and the Lime, men of war, who had been in St. James's river about ten months; and it was agreed, that the Governor should hire a couple of small sloops, and the men of war should man them. This was done accordingly, and the command of them given to Mr. Robert Maynard, first lieutenant of the Pearl, a brave experienced officer, possessing great resolution, as will appear by his gallant behaviour in this expedition. The sloops were well manned, and furnished with ammunition and small arms, but had no guns mounted. About the time of their setting off, the Governor called an assembly, in which it was resolved to publish a proclamation, offering certain rewards to any person or persons, who, within a year from that time, should take or destroy any pirate. The original proclamation was as follows:—

By his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony and Dominion

of Virginia. A Proclamation, publishing the Rewards given for apprehending or killing Pirates.

“Whereas, by an act of Assembly made at a session of Assembly, began at the capital of Williamsburg, the 11th day of November, in the 6th year of his Majesty's reign, entitled, “An act to encourage persons taking or destroying pirates, who, from the 14th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1719, shall take any pirate or pirates on the sea or land, or, in case of resistance, shall kill any such pirate or pirates, between the degrees of 34 and 39 of northern latitude, and within 100 leagues of the continent of Virginia, or North Carolina, or within those provinces: upon the conviction, or making due proof of the killing of all or any such pirate or pirates, before the Governor and council, shall be entitled to have and receive out of the public money, in the hands of the treasurer of this colony, the several following Rewards—that is, for Edward Teach, commonly styled Captain Teach, or Black Beard, one hundred pounds; for every other commander of a pirate ship, sloop, or vessel, forty pounds; for every lieutenant, master, or quarter-master, boatswain, or carpenter, twenty pounds; for inferior officers, fifteen pounds; and for every private man taken on board such a ship, sloop, or vessel, ten pounds; and for every pirate which shall be taken between November 14, 1719, and November 18, 1720, in any place whatsoever, by any vessels belonging to this colony, they shall receive the

same reward, according to the quality and condition of such pirates; and not to be restricted to leagues or degrees, as vessels not belonging to our colony; who only shall receive the reward from our Governor for pirate ships, sloops, or vessels, taken within the limited bounds aforementioned.

“Wherefore, for the encouragement of such persons as shall be willing to serve his Majesty and their country, in so just and honourable an undertaking, as the suppressing those pirates, who may be justly called the enemies of mankind, I have thought fit, with the advice and consent of his Majesty’s council, to issue this proclamation, hereby declaring the said Rewards shall be punctually and justly paid, in current money of Virginia, according to the directions of the said act: And I do order and appoint this proclamation to be published by the sheriffs in their respective county houses, and by all ministers and public readers in the several churches and chapels throughout this colony.

“Given at our council-chamber at Williamsburgh, this 14th day of November, 1719, in the 6th year of his Majesty’s reign. God save the King. “A. SPOTSWOOD.”

It will be necessary, in this place, to make a digression from the narrative, to give an account of Major Stede Bonnet, whom we mentioned to have joined Black Beard. The Major was no sailor, as has been related before, and had but small knowledge of maritime affairs. Teach, who was an excellent mariner, but a cruel, hardened villain, soon cast the Major in the shade,

and gave the command of Bonnet's own sloop, the *Little Revenge*, to Richards, and took the Major on board the *Queen Ann's Revenge*, where he continued till that vessel was lost thro' Teach's artifice in *Topsail Inlet*.

Bonnet now saw his own folly, but could not help himself, which made him melancholy. He reflected on his past course of life, and was confounded with shame. His behaviour was noticed by the other pirates, who liked him none the better for it; and he often declared to some of them, he would be glad to leave that way of life: only he should be ashamed to see the face of any Englishman again: but if he could once get to Spain or Portugal, where he might remain undiscovered, he would spend the remainder of his days in quiet; otherwise he must continue with them as long as he lived.

When Black Beard lost his ship at *Topsail Inlet*, Bonnet re-assumed the command of his own sloop, the *Revenge*, and went directly to *Bath Town*, in *North Carolina*, surrendered to his Majesty's pardon, and received a certificate. The war now broke out between the *Triple Allies* and *Spain*, and Major Bonnet got a clearance for his sloop to go to the *Island of St. Thomas*, with a design (at least that was his pretence) to get the Emperor's commission to go a privateering against the Spaniards. When Bonnet came to *Topsail Inlet*, he found Teach and his gang were gone, and that they had taken all the money and valuable effects out of the great ship, and sent ashore, on a small island about a league from the *Main*, 17 men to perish. He

got this intelligence from two sailors who had escaped Black Beard's cruelty. He sent a boat to make a discovery of the truth of this matter, when the poor wretches (who had been there two days and nights without subsistence) seeing they made signals to them, were all brought on board Bonnet's sloop.

The Major told all his company that he would procure a commission to go against the Spaniards, and for that purpose was going to St. Thomas's, and they that would join him were welcome.— They all consented: but as the sloop was preparing to sail, a bumb-boat, that brought apples and pears to sell to the crew, informed them, that Black Beard lay at Okerecock Inlet with only eighteen or twenty hands. Bonnet, who bore him a mortal hatred, for some insults offered him, went immediately in pursuit of Black Beard: but it was too late, for he missed him there: and, after four days cruize, as they could not hear further news of him, they steered their course towards Virginia, but soon returned to their old course of life, for which offence against the laws the Major was hanged in October, 1720.

But to resume the adventures of Captain Teach. On the 17th of November, 1719, Lieutenant Maynard sailed from Kiequetan, in James River, Virginia, and the 21st, in the evening, came to the mouth of Okerecock Inlet, where he got sight of the pirate. This expedition was managed with great secrecy, and the officer, with great prudence, stopped all the boats and vessels he met with in the river from going up,

so that Black Beard might gain no intelligence of his design; but, notwithstanding this caution, Teach had information of his coming. Governor Eden, and his secretary, Mr. Knight, wrote him a letter concerning it, intimating, that he had sent him four of his men, which were all he could meet with in or about town, and bid him be on his guard. These men belonged to Black Beard, and were sent from Bath Town to Okerecock Inlet, where the sloop lay, which is twenty leagues distant.

Black Beard had heard several reports, which happened not to be true, and so gave the less credit to this: nor was he convinced till he saw the sloops, when he put his vessel in a posture of defence. He had no more than twenty-five men on board, though he gave out to all the vessels he spoke with that he had forty. When he had prepared for battle, he sat down, and spent the night in drinking with the master of a trading sloop, who was thought to have more business with Captain Teach than was consistent with honour.

Lieutenant Maynard came to an anchor: for the place being shoally, and the channel intricate, there was no getting in where Teach lay that night: but in the morning he weighed, and sent his boat a-head of the sloops to sound; and coming within gun-shot of the pirate, received his fire; whereupon Maynard hoisted the King's colours, and stood directly towards him with the best way his sails and oars could make. Black Beard cut his cable, and endeavoured to make sail, running fight, keeping a continual fire at his

enemies with his guns. Maynard, not having any, kept a constant fire with his small arms, while some of his men laboured at the oars. In a short time Teach's sloop ran a-ground; and the lieutenant's drawing more water than the pirate, he could not come near him; so he anchored within half a gun-shot of the enemy; and, in order to lighten his vessel, that he might run him aboard, the lieutenant ordered all his ballast to be thrown over-board, and all the water to be staved, and then weighed and stood for him: upon which Black Beard hailed him in this rude manner:

"Damn you for villains, where do you come from? who are you?" Mr. Maynard answered, "You may see by our colours that we are not pirates." Black Beard bid him send his boat on board, that he might see who he was. Mr. Maynard replied, "I cannot spare my boat; but I will come on board you with my sloop, as soon as I can." Black Beard then took a glass of liquor, and drank to him, swearing that he would not give or take any quarters. Mr. Maynard answered, "that he expected no quarters from him, nor should he give him any."

By this time Black Beard's sloop fled, as Mr. Maynard's sloops were rowing towards him, which being not above a foot high in the waste, and consequently the men all exposed as they came near together, (for as yet there was not much damage done on either side,) the pirate fired a broadside, charged with all manner of small shot: a fatal stroke! the sloop the lieute

nant was in having twenty men killed and wounded, and the other nine. This could not be avoided, for there was no wind, and they were obliged to keep up to their oars, otherwise the pirate would have got away—a circumstance the lieutenant was resolute to prevent.

After this unfortunate blow, Black Beard's sloop fell broadside on the shore. Mr. Maynard's other sloop, which was called the Ranger, fell astern, being for the present disabled. The lieutenant, finding his own sloop had way, and might soon be on board of Teach, ordered all his men down, for fear of another broadside, which must have been their destruction, and the loss of the expedition. Mr. Maynard was the only person that kept the deck, except the man at the helm, whom he directed to lay down snug, and the men in the hold were ordered to get their pistols and swords ready for fighting, and to come up at his command; in order to which, two ladders were placed in the hatchway for the sake of more expedition. When the lieutenant's sloop boarded the other, Black Beard's men threw in several new-fashioned sort of grenadoes; that is, case-bottles filled with powder and small shot, slugs, and pieces of lead or iron, with a quick-match in the mouth of it, which, being lighted without side, presently ran into the bottle to the powder; and as it was instantly thrown on board, generally did great execution, besides putting all the crew into confusion; but, by good Providence, they failed not that effect here: the men being in the hold, and Black Beard seeing few or no hands

on board, told his men that they were all knocked on the head, except three or four, and therefore, says he, "let's jump on board, and cut them to pieces."

Under the smook of one of the above-mentioned bottles, Black Beard entered with fourteen men over the bows of Maynard's sloop, and were not seen by him till the air cleared.— He just then gave a signal to the men, who all rose in an instant, and attacked the pirates with as much bravery as was ever known on such an occasion. Black Beard and Maynard fired the first pistol at each other, by which the pirate received a wound, and then engaged with swords, till the lieutenant's unluckily broke, when, stepping back to cock a pistol, Black Beard, with his cutlass, was striking at that instant, when one of Maynard's men gave him a terrible wound in the neck and throat, by which the lieutenant came off with a slight cut over his fingers.

They were now closely engaged; the lieutenant with twelve men, and Black Beard with fourteen, till the sea was tingured with blood round the vessel. Teach received a shot in his body from the pistol of Lieutenant Maynard, yet stood his ground, and fought with great fury, till he had no less than five-and-twenty wounds, and six of them by shot. At length, as he was cocking another pistol, he dropped down dead, by which time eight more of the fourteen dropped, and the rest, much wounded, jumped overboard, and called out for quarters, which was granted: though it only prolonged the

lives, for in a few days the Ranger came up, and attacked the men that had remained on board of Black Beard's sloop when he boarded Maynard's, and attacked them with equal bravery, till they also cried out for quarters.

This was the end of that courageous brute, who might have been stiled a brave hero, had he been employed in a just and honourable cause. His destruction, which was of such consequence to the plantations, was entirely owing to the bravery of Lieutenant Maynard and his men, who might have destroyed him with much less loss, had they had a vessel with great guns: but they were obliged to use small vessels, because the places he lurked in would not admit of others of greater draught; and it was with no small difficulty that this gentleman got to him, having grounded his vessels many times in getting up the river, besides other discouragements that would have made many a gentleman turn back without incurring the least dishonour. But the lieutenant was bold and resolute. The broadside that did so much mischief before they boarded, most probably saved the lives of the rest; for, before that, Black Beard had small or no hopes of escaping, and had posted a resolute fellow, a negro, whom he had bred up, with a lighted match in the powder-room, with orders to blow up the vessel when he should command him; which he designed to do as soon as the lieutenant and his men could have entered, that he might have destroyed the conquerors and the vanquished all together. When the faithful negro found that his master was dead,

it was with difficulty he could be prevented from the rash action, by two prisoners who were then in the hold of the sloop.

The lieutenant caused Black Beard's head to be severed from his body, and hung up at the bowsprit, and then sailed to Bath Town, to get relief for his wounded men.

In clearing the pirate's sloop, they found several letters and written papers, which discovered the correspondence between Governor Eden, the secretary, and collector, and some traders at New York, and Black Beard.

It is most probable, that, out of regard to his friends, he would have destroyed these dishonourable testimonies of the dealings he carried on with them, had it not been his fixed resolution to have blown up the vessel when he found it impossible to conquer or escape.

When the lieutenant came to Bath Town, he made bold to seize in the Governor's storehouse the sixty hogsheads of sugar, and from Mr. Knight, the secretary, twenty; which was their dividend of the plunder of the French ship. The latter being apprehensive he might be called to an account for his proceedings, fell ill with the fright, and died in a few days.

After the wounded men had pretty well recovered, the lieutenant sailed back to the men of war, in James River, Virginia, with Black Beard's head still hanging at the bow-sprit end; and fifteen prisoners, thirteen of whom were hanged. It appeared upon their trial, that one of them was taken out of a trading sloop but the night before, Samuel Odell: this poor fellow

was unluckily at his first entrance on a new trade, there appearing no less than seventy wounds upon him after the action; notwithstanding which, he lived, and was cured of them all, and was pardoned. The other person that escaped the gallows, was Israel Hands, the master of Black Beard's sloop, and formerly captain of the same, before the Queen Ann's Revenge was lost in Topsail Inlet.

Hands happened not to be on board at the time of the engagement, but was taken afterwards on shore at Bath Town: he had been disabled by Black Beard in one of his savage humours, after the following manner.

One evening, carousing in his cabin with Hands, the pilot, and another man, Black Beard, without any provocation, privately drew out a small pair of pistols, and cocked them under the table, which being perceived by the man, he withdrew, and went upon deck, leaving the pilot and Hands with the captain.

When the pistols were ready, he blew out the candle, and crossing his hands, discharged them at his company. Hands, the master, was shot through the knee, and lamed for life: the other pistol did no execution.

Being asked the reason of this outrageous barbarity, he only answered, by damning them, and saying, if he did not now and then kill one of them, they would forget who he was.

Hands was tried and condemned; but just as the sentence was about to be executed, a ship arrived at Virginia with a proclamation for prolonging the time of his Majesty's pardon to such

pirates as should surrender within a limited time expressed. Notwithstanding the sentence, Hands pleaded the pardon, and, after some debate in the council, was allowed the benefit of it. He came to England, and for many years begged his bread about the streets as a lame sailor.

Plutarch, and other great historians, have noticed, that several famous men took their surnames from certain odd marks in their faces, as Cicero did from a vetch on his nose. So our hero, Captain Teach, assumed and took delight in the appellation of Black Beard, from a large quantity of hair, which, like a frightful meteor, covered his face, and frightened America more than any comet that has ever appeared there.

His beard was black, which he suffered to grow to an extravagant length: as to breadth, it came up to his eyes: he was accustomed to twist it with ribbon into small tails, in the manner of the Ramilies wigs, and turn them about his ears. In the time of action, he wore a sling over his shoulders, with three braces of pistols hanging in holsters like bandeliers, and stuck lighted matches under his hat, which appearing on each side his face, his eyes naturally fierce and wild, made him look so frightful, that imagination could not form a fury from hell to look more so. If he had the look of a fury, his humours and passions were suitable to it, for his actions made him one.

In the commonwealth of pirates, he who went the greatest length of wickedness among them, was looked upon with a kind of envy, as a person

of great gallantry, and was thereby entitled to some post or office: for if he was a vile wicked fellow, they supposed he must have courage. Black Beard was thoroughly accomplished this way; and some of his frolicks were as extravagant, as if he aimed at making his men believe he was a devil incarnate: for one day at sea, being flushed with drink. "Come, (says he,) let us make a hell of our own, and try how long we can bear it." Then, with two or three others, he went down into the hold, and closing up all the hatches, filled several pots full of brimstone, and other combustible matter, and setting it on the fire, continued there until they were almost suffocated, when some of the men cried out for air. At length he opened the hatches, not a little pleased that he held out the longest.

The night before he was killed, when they had received intelligence of the sloops coming to attack them, one of his men asked him, in case any thing should happen to him in the engaging with Lieutenant Maynard, whether his wife knew where he had buried his money. He replied, that no one but himself and the devil knew where it was, and the longest liver should take all.

Those of his crew who survived the engagement, and were taken prisoners, told a circumstance which may appear incredible, though it was affirmed upon oath.

On the last cruize, they found out that they had a man on board more than their crew: he staid several days among them, sometimes on

the deck, and sometimes below, but would disappear when any one went to speak to him. No man in the ship could give any account from whence he came, or where he went; no more than that he disappeared just before a heavy gale of wind; but they verily believed it to be the devil.

Any one would suppose that these things would have induced them to reform their lives; but so many reprobates together encourage one another in their evil courses, to which a continual course of drinking did not a little contribute; for in Black Beard's journal, which was taken, there were several memorandums of the following nature writ with his own hand.

Such a day, rum all out—Our company sober—a damned confusion amongst us—Rogues a plotting—Great talk of separation—so I looked sharp for a prize—Took one the next day, with a deal of rare liquor on board—kept the company hot—damned drunk—then all things went well again.

Thus these wretches passed their lives, with very little pleasure or satisfaction in the possession of what they took by violence from others, and sure to pay for it at last by an ignominious death.

In the pirate sloop, and ashore in a tent near where the sloop lays, twenty-five hogsheads of sugar, eleven tierces, and one hundred and forty-five bags of cocoa, a barrel of indigo, and a bale of cotton, which, with the sugar taken from the Governor and his secretary, and the sale of Black Beard's sloop, came to two thousand five

hundred pounds; besides the rewards paid by the Governor of Virginia pursuant to his proclamation. This was divided among the companies in the two ships, the Lime and Pearl, that lay in James River. The brave fellows that were in the action, had no more for their share than the others of the ships' crews that remained behind; and they were not paid it till near three years had expired.

It is remarkable, that some of the men who fought so bravely against Black Beard, afterwards went a pirating themselves, and one of them was taken along with Roberts, and hanged. The fate of the rest is not known, being variously reported.



*A short Account of the Origin and
Progress of the Pirates.*

IT may not be amiss to give some account of the origin and progress of the Pirates who were the terror of the trading part of the world.

In the time of Marius and Sylla, Rome was in her greatest strength, yet inwardly torn in pieces by the factions of those great men. Every thing which concerned the public good was totally neglected. Some of the natives of Cilicia (a country of Asia Minor, on the coast of the Mediterranean, betwixt Syria on the East, from which it is divided by Mount Tauris, and Armenia Minor on the West) took advantage of this contest, and went a pirating. Their beginning was mean and inconsiderable, having but two ships and a few men, with which they cruized about the Greek Islands, capturing such vessels as were ill armed, or weakly defended. But, by the taking so many prizes, they soon increased in wealth and power.

The first action of theirs which made a noise in the world, was the taking of Julius Cæsar, who was yet a youth; and being obliged to fly from the cruelty of Sylla, who sought his life, went to Bythinia, and sojourned awhile with Ncomedes, king of that country. On his return back by sea, he was met with, and taken by, some of these Pirates near the Island of

Pharmacusa. They had a barbarous custom of tying their prisoners back to back, and casting them into the sea; but supposing Cæsar to be a person of high rank, by his rich robes, and the number of his attendants, they thought it would be best to save him, in hopes of a high ransom: therefore they told him, he should have his liberty, if he would pay them twenty talents, which they thought to be a very high demand. (In our money it is three thousand six hundred pounds sterling.) He smiled; and, of his own accord, promised them fifty talents. They were both pleased and surprised at his answer; and consented that several of his attendants should go, by his direction, and raise the money.

He remained among the Pirates eight-and-thirty days, with no more than three attendants. He was not the least afraid; and so unconcerned, that often, when he retired to sleep, he used to charge them not to make a noise; threatening, if they disturbed him, he would hang them all. He likewise played at dice with them. Sometimes he would write out verses and dialogues, which he used to repeat, and cause them to do the same: if they did not praise and admire them, he would call them beasts and barbarians, telling them, he would crucify them. They took all this as the sprightly sallies of a juvenile humour, and were rather pleased and diverted by it, than offended.

At length his attendants returned with his ransom, which he paid, and was discharged. He sailed for the Port of Miletum. As soon as

he arrived there, he used all his art and industry in fitting out a squadron of ships, which he equipped and armed at his own charge, and went in quest of the Pirates. He surprised them as they lay at anchor among the islands. He took those who had taken him along with some others. The money he found on board the Pirate vessels he made prize of, to reimburse his charges; and he carried the men to Pergamas, or Troy, and there secured them in prison. In the mean time he applied himself to Junius, then governor of Asia Minor, to whom it belonged to judge and determine the punishment of these men; but Junius finding there was no money to be had, answered Cæsar, that he would think at leisure what was to be done with those prisoners. Cæsar took his leave of him, returned back to Pergamas, and commanded the men to be brought out, and executed, without waiting to hear any thing farther from Junius; but acted by the examples that had taken place in cases of the like nature; and thus gave them that punishment in earnest, that he had often threatened them with in jest.

Cæsar went strait to Rome, where, being engaged in designs for his own private ambition, as were at that time all the leading men in that great city, the Pirates, who were left, had time to increase to a prodigious strength; for while the civil wars lasted, the seas were left unguarded. Plutarch tells us, that they erected divers arsenals, full of warlike stores; made commodious harbours; and set up watch-towers and beacons along the coast of Cilicia. They had a

powerful fleet, well equipped, and furnished with oared galleys, manned not only with men of desperate courage, but expert pilots and mariners. They had their ships for force, and light pinnaces for cruizes, and making discoveries; in all, not less than a thousand sail; so gloriously adorned, that they were envied as well as feared for their gallant shew, and naval strength: they had the stern and quarters all gilt with gold, and their oars plated with silver, as well as purple sails; as if their delight was to display their iniquity. They were not content with committing piracies at sea, but made great conquests by land. They took near four hundred cities, laid several others under contribution, plundered the villages along the sea-coasts, spoiled the temples of the gods, and enriched themselves with the offerings deposited therein. A party of them took Sextilius and Bellinus, two Roman Prætors, in their purple robes, going from Rome to their governments, and carried them away, with all their officers and vergers. They also took the daughter of Antoninus, a consular person, and one who had obtained the honour of a triumph, as she was going to the country-house of her father. For these persons they obtained splendid ransoms.

Thus, while Rome considered herself as mistress of the world, she suffered insults at her own gates from these powerful robbers. But what for a time made faction cease, and aroused the genius of that warlike people, who would not tamely suffer from an enemy, for a long period, was a scarcity of provisions and corn in the

capital, occasioned by all the ships loaded with necessary articles, being intercepted and rifled by the Pirates in their way from Sicily and Corsica, and other places that supplied Rome, till they were almost reduced to famine. Pompey the Great was immediately appointed general to manage the war. Five hundred ships were fitted out: he had fourteen senators, men experienced in war, for his vice-admirals; and so considerable an enemy were these ruffians become, that no less than an army of a hundred thousand foot, and five thousand horse, were appointed to invade them by land. It was fortunate for Rome that Pompey sailed before the Pirates had any intelligence of the design, so that their ships were scattered over the Mediterranean like bees from a hive, some in one bay, some in another, to bring home their lading. Pompey divided his fleet into thirteen squadrons, to whom he appointed their several stations. Great numbers of the Pirates fell into their hands, ship by ship, without any loss worth recording. He passed forty days in clearing the Mediterranean; some of the fleet cruizing along the coast of Africa, some about the islands, and others upon the Italian shores. Often the Pirates, who were flying from one squadron, fell in with another; but some of them escaping, made directly to Cilicia, and acquainted their confederates on shore with the preparations against them. Then they appointed a rendezvous of all the ships that had escaped at the port of Coracesium, in the same country.

Pompey, finding the Mediterranean quite clear, appointed a meeting of all his fleet at the haven of Brundisium; and from thence sailing round into the Adriatic, he went directly to attack the pirates in their hives. As soon as he came near to Coracesium, they had the boldness to give him battle; but the genius of Old Rome prevailed, and the Pirates received an entire overthrow, being all taken prisoners or destroyed: but their fortresses, castles, and strong holds on the sea shores, he was obliged to besiege with his army. Some he took by storm; others surrendered, to whom he granted pardons; and at length made an entire conquest of them all.

It is probable, that, had the Pirates received sufficient notice of the Roman preparations against them, they could have had time to draw their scattered strength into a body, and to have met Pompey by sea. The advantage appeared greatly on their side, both in shipping and men: nor did they want courage, as may be seen by their coming out of the port of Coracesium, to give the Romans battle with so inferior a force. If that had been the case, it is likely that they would not only have overthrown Pompey, but made greater attempts; and Rome, which had conquered the world, might have been subdued by a parcel of pirates.

We shall now present to our readers, for their entertainment, the History of Barbarossa, a native of the city of Mytilene, in the island of Lesbos, on the Egean Sea, a person of mean birth, who, being bred to the sea, first

set out from thence pirating with only one small vessel; but, by the prizes he took, he gained immense riches; and procuring by this means a number of large ships, all the dissolute fellows in that island flocked to him, and enlisted in his service for the prospect of rich booty, so that his strength was increased to a formidable fleet. With these he performed such bold and extraordinary actions, that he became the terror of the seas. About this time, Selim Eutemi, King of Algiers, refused to pay the accustomed tribute to the Spaniards, and was apprehensive of an invasion from that power: he treated with Barbarossa as an ally, to come and assist him, and deliver him from paying tribute. Barbarossa, rejoiced at this opportunity, readily agreed, and sailed to Algiers with a great fleet. He put part of his men on shore, and, having laid a plot to surprise the city, he effected it with great success, and murdered Selim Eutemi in a bath. Soon after he caused himself to be crowned, and proclaimed Dey of Algiers. He then made war against the King of Tunis, the renowned and valiant Abidilabde, and conquered him. He extended his possessions on all sides! and thus, from a pirate, became a monarch. He was slain in battle; yet had so well established himself upon the throne, that, dying without issue, he left the inheritance of the kingdom to his brother, who had also been a pirate, and accompanied him in this expedition.

The pirates in the West Indies were more numerous than in any other part of the world.

for several weighty reasons. There were so many uninhabited islands and quays, with harbours convenient and secure for cleaning their vessels, and abounding with what they often wanted, which was provisions, (as they seldom dared to supply themselves in a regular way,) such as sea-fowl, turtle, shell, and other fish, besides fresh water. If they could carry with them strong liquors, they indulged themselves here for a time, and refitted, ready for new expeditions, before any intelligence could be heard of them. It may not be amiss to explain what they called quays in the West Indies:—they are small sandy islands, appearing a little above the surface of the water, with only a few bushes or weeds upon them, but abound (especially those at a distance from the Main) with turtle, which are amphibious creatures, that always choose the most quiet and unfrequented places to lay their eggs, which are a vast number in a season. Vessels from Jamaica, and the other islands, make voyages at the stated periods, called Turtling, to supply the people with an approved and common food in that part of the globe. It is supposed by many, that these quays have been separated from the islands contiguous to them by the earthquakes or inundations so frequent there; because some of them, which have been within continual view, as those are near Jamaica, are observed to be wasting daily; and some of them have, within the memory of many persons residing there, been washed away, or entirely wasted. On the best of these the pirates often concealed their riches,

and oftentimes sheltered themselves till they could procure liberty by an act of grace, which was very frequent.

Another reason why these seas were chosen by pirates, was the great commerce carried on by French, Spanish, Dutch, and English ships. They were sure, in the latitude of these trading islands, to meet with prizes, booties of provision, cloathing, and naval stores, besides money, there being great sums remitted this way on account of the slave trade, as well as the liquor, sugar, cotton, and spice traffic.

A third reason was, the difficulty and inconvenience to the men of war in pursuing them into the many small inlets and harbours on these solitary islands and quays, a natural security to the pirates.

They generally began their enterprises here ; setting out at first with a very small force, and, by infesting these seas, and the north continent of America, in a year's time, if they had good luck, and were not intercepted, they accumulated such strength as to make foreign expeditions: the first, usually to Guinea, taking the Azores and Cape de Verd Islands in their way ; and then to Brazil, and the East Indies, where, if they met with golden voyages, they set down at Madagascar, and enjoyed their ill-got wealth among their brethren with impunity : but the far greater part of these rovers were cut short in their pursuit by a violent or ignominious death, which they justly deserved.