THE MYSTERY

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE and SAMUEL HOPKINS ADAMS

Illustrations by Will Crawford.

light of the forecastie we had some great sea knyer's talks—I say "We."

Thrackles ventured, most respect to intervene.

Dr. Schermerhorn appeared on deck seldom. When he did, often his fingers held a pen which he had forgotten to my pipe while Handy Solomon, held forth, his speech punctuated by surly manufactured by some calculation of his own, but the forecastle, more picturesquely, saw the forecastle, more picturesquely, saw the forecastle, more picturesquely, saw the forecastle beavily over with it—he can make diamon's—dia—with it—diamon's—dia—with it—diamon's—dia—with it—diamon's—diamo hesitating deep-sea wisdom from the him as guarding constantly the heavy hairy Thrackles, or with voluminous casket he had himself carried aboard. hairy Thrackles, or with voluminous burts of fractured English from Perdosa. Pulz had nothing to offer, but watched from his pale green eyes. The light shifted and wavered from one to the other as the ship swayed: garments swung; the empty berths yawned cavernous. I could imagine the forecastle filled with the desperate men taffrail, his graceful figure swaying the swaying that the land gone, remained Percy Darrow leaning indolently against the castle filled with the desperate men taffrail, his graceful figure swaying the heavy casket he had himself carried aboard. He breathed the air, walked briskly, turned with the German military precision at the end of his score of strides, and re-inforced his casket he had himself carried aboard. He breathed the air, walked briskly, turned with the German military precision at the lapse of the half hour.

"It ain't pearls," said Handy Solo-mon, "You can kiss the Book on that, for we sin't a diver among us. It sin't Chinks, for we are cruising sou'-son'-west. Likely it's trade—trade down in the islands."

We were all below. The captain himself had the wheel. Discipline, while strict, was not conventional.

"Contrabandista," muttered the
Mexican, "for dat he geev us double

"We don't get her for nothing." agreed Thackles. "Double yay and duff on Wednesday generally means get

your head broke." "No trade," insisted the Nigger. ily.
They turned to him with one ac-

Why not?" demanded Pulz, breaking his silence. "No trade," repeated the Nigger.

The S.cci Claw.

During the next few days the crew discussed our destination. Discipline, while maintained strictly, was not conventional. During the dog watches, often, every man aboard would be below, for at that period Caprain Selover loved to take the wheel in person, a thick clear between his lips, the dingy checked shirt wide open to expose his hairy chest to the breeze. In the twillight of the forecastie we had some

who had beaten off the Oyama. The story is told that they had swept the gunboat's decks with her own rapid-fires, turned in.

No one knew where we were going. No one knew where we were going, to hold in review the appliances, the nor why. The doctor puzzled them, fabric, the actions, yes, even the very and the quantity of his belongings. thoughts, of the entire snip. From them he selected that on which he should comment or with which he should play, always with a sardonic, half-serious, quite wearled and indifferent manner. His inner knowledge, viewed by the light of this manner or mannerism, was sometimes uncanny, though perhaps the sources of his information were commonplace enough, after all. Certainly he always viewed with amusement his victim's wonder.

"That's what I said at first!" cried Handy Solomon triumphantly. It was extraordinary, the unquestioning and entire faith with which they accepted as gospel fact the negro's dictum. our day-watch on deck, he approached 10 days, on no one of which had the and bleeding freely. seamen failed to tinker away at his steel claw. Darrow balanced in front school!" observed Handy Sciomen,

the eye. There was a breathless pause and then Thrackles, Puls, the Nigger, and Perdosa attacked at once. They caught the master unawares, and bore him to the deck. I dropped at

once to the ratlines, and commenced my descent. Before I had reached the

Ezra Selover, and you can lay to that! It would need about eight fathom of stuff like you to tie me down."

chased them aft, and every time the talks and consultations in which I had pins fell, blood followed. Finally they no part. Ordinarily they talked freely dived like rabbits into the forecastle hatch. Captain Selover leaned down after them.

"Now tie yourseves up," he advised, "and then come on deck and cean up after yourselves!" He turned to me. "Mr. Eagen, turn out the crew to clean decks."

I descended to the forecastle, followed immediately by Handy Solomon. Thus one evening at the close of The latter had taken no part in the affair. We found the men in horrible Handy Solomon. It was at the end of shape, what with the bruises and cuts,

"Now you're a nice-looking Sunday

eyeing them sardonically. "Tackle

Old Scrubs, will ye? Well, some needs

a bale of cotton to fall on 'em afore

they learns anything. Enjoyed your

Petrel! My eye, but you are a pack

After this taste of his quality, Cap-

tain Selover enjoyed a quiet ship. We

nothing happened. Finally the monot-

was but just beyond the full, so I sup-

pose I must have been practically in-

below was opened also, and a scrap of

conversation came up to us very clear-

tor's voice inquired. "So, that iss well"—papers rustled for a few mo-ments. "And the r-result—sh—exact-

"You haf dem finished?" the doc-

"I don't see, sir, quite," replied the

voice of Percy Darrow, with a tinge of

excitement. "I can follow the logic of

the experiment, of course-so can I

follow the logic of a trip to the moon.

But when you come to apply it-how

do you get your re-agent? There's no

Dr. Schermerhorn broke in: "Ach, it

iss that I haf perfected. Pardon me

my boy, it is the first I haf worked

from you apart. It iss for a surprise. I haf made in small quantities the miss-

"Do you mean to say," almost shout

ed Darrow, "that you have succeeded

"Yes," replied the doctor simply.

"Why, with that you can-"
"I can do efferything," broke in the

"And you can really produce it in

A pause ensued.
"Why!" came the voice of Percy

"I think so; it iss for us to discov-

Darrow, awe-stricken. "With 50 centi-

grams only you could-you could

transmute any substance-why, you could make anything you pleased al-most! You could make enough dis-

"Diamonds—yes—It is possible," terrupted the doctor impatiently,

it was worth while. But you should

ends to fill that chest! It is the phi-

I could hear a chair overturned.

known method-

ony was broken by an incident.

of damn fools!"

work.

the steel hook, and in two days he had ly—it iss that exactly. Percy, mein

the job finished. Then he returned the son, that maigs the experiment exact

"The Spirit of the Wild Beast, Cowed but Snarling Still,"

An uneasy silence fell. I could not handy for fighting—— See here," he

but observe that the others held the suddenly continued, pulling some ob-

Nigger's statements in a respect not ject from his pocket, "here's a pipe;

due them as mere opinions. Subse-quently I understood a little more of Twist her halfway, like that, she

the reputation he possessed. He was comes out, Twist her halfway, like

believed to see things hidden, as their this, she goes in. That's your principle.

to be sought or conveyed, bought, the most absolute and implicit obedi-

stolen, or ravished in fair fight. No ence imaginable. When he conde-

further soothsaying could they elicit scended to give an order in his own

from the Nigger. They followed their person, the men fairly jumped to ex-

omeone lit the forecastle lamp. They been threshed out long ago. They did

rais was the programme every day ed him with a mighty fear, and did

only Handy Solomon, the Nigger and castle. The prevailing spirit was that

Pulz, but the order of the day was not of the wild beast, cowed but snarling

on that account varied. They talked, still, Pulz and Thackles in especial

bermen and miners. Thackles had a foot was set to the companion ladder.

ordinary garlah detectivestories. The erything drawing well, and everybody

ographically. By the usual incongruity pleasure. Below me on the deck Captain Fragment of The Marble Faun was

ncluded in the collection. The Nigger as was his custom, his eye cocked was his copy of Duvail on Alchemy. I out like a housewife's for disorder.

the slightest idea where he He found it, again in the evidence of

on an entertain to hold, and I Perdosa protested that he had had er as an undertone to Pula's nothing to do with it, but Captuin Se-

fortunate Mexican.

on deck was absent, leaving often, when in the privacy of the fore-

through."

of thanks.

"Too bad it doesn't work, my am-

lable pirate," said he. "It would be so

Give her back to me when you get

He thrust the briar pipe into the

man's hand, and turned away without

waiting for a reply. The seaman look-

ed after him in open amazement. That

"That's all right," said the young

man, smiling full at him. "Now what

CHAPTER V.

The Philosopher's Stone.

Captain Selover received as his due

from the Nigger. They followed their person, the men fairly jumped to ex-own ideas, which led them nowhere, ecute it. The matter had evidently interruntion to the current, Now we

not love him, not they; but they fear-

they lit the lamp, they read. Always had a great deal to say of what they doctor. "The possibilities are enor-

noticed that their resolution always

began to run out of them when first

One day we were loafing along, ev-

but, the doctor on deck to enjoy the

sun. I was in the crow's nest for my

expectoration, and as Perdona hap-

pened to be handlest, fell on the un-

were or were not going to do, but I mous.

daring the dog watch, Sometimes the not hesitate to say so, vividly, and in freeing it in the metal?"

are you going to fight?"

evening he worked on the socket of ments.

pipe to Darrow with some growling We had the process-

"Ain't you got a reason, Doctor?" of him with a thin smile.

asked Handy Solomon.

turn either way.

ed softly at last.

"Gold-treasure."

"No trade," insisted the Nigger.

Nobody said anything for some

time; rabody stirred, except that

Handy Solomon, his steel claw remov-

ed from its socket, whittled and test-

ed, screwed and turned, trying to fix

the hook so that, in accordance with

the advice of Percy Darrow, it would

"What is it, then, Doctor?" he ask-

"Gold," said the Nigger shortly.

"That's what I said at first!" cried

Handy Solomon triumphantly. It was

extraordinary, the unquestioning and

entire faith with which they accepted

There followed much talk of the

nature of this treasure, whether it was

settled themselves. Pulz read aloud.

the talk was of the treasure.

As to the reading, it was of the

rt usual to seamen, cowboys, lum-

number of volumes of very cheap love

stories. Pulz had bought some extra-

others contributed sensational litera-

ture with paper covers adorned lith-

worked on the alteration of his claw.

as gospel fact the negro's dictum.

failen. His eyes fairly rolled in eachtment, his shick lips were drawn back to expose his teath, his powerful figure was gathered with the tensity of a bow. When the door slammed, he turned allently to glide away. At that instant the watch was changed, and in a moment I found myself in my bunk. Ten seconds later the Nigger, detained by Captain Selover for some striffing duty, burst into the forecastle. He was possessed by the wildest excitement. This in itself was enough to gain the attention of the men, but his

An Opportunity Is Offered Young Men of This Vicinity gain the attention of the men, but his

first words were startling.
"I found de treasure!" he almost shouted. "I know where he kept!"

They leaped at him—Handy Solomon and Pulz—and fairly shook out of him what he thought he knew. He babbled in the forester.

with it—he can make diamon's—dia-mon's—he say it too easy to fill dat box plum full of diamon's."

They gesticulated and exclaimed and breathed hard, full of the marvel of such a thought. Then abruptly the clamor died to nothing. I felt six eyes bent on me, six unwinking eyes moving in motionless figures, suspicious,

Up to now my standing with the men had been well enough. Now they drew frankly apart. One of the most significant indications of this was the "Mutiny, would you?" he shrilled. increased respect they paid my office. It was as though by prompt obedi-your captain, did ye? Well, it's Captain phasizing of ship's etiquette they intended to draw sharply the line between themselves and me. There was He chased them forward, and he much whispering apart, many private enough before me. Even the reading during the dog watch was intermitted -at least it was on such days as I happened to be in the watch below. But twice I caught the nigger and Handy Solomon consulting together over the volume on alchemy.

I was in two minds whether to report the whole matter to Captain Selover. The only thing that restrained me was the vagueness of the intention, and the fact that the afterguard was armed, and was four to the crew's five. An incident, however, decided me, One evening I was awakened by a sound of violent voices. Captain Selover occasionally juggled the watches for variety's sake, and I now had Handy Solomon and Perdosa. The nigger, being cook, stood no watch.

"You drunken greaser swab!" snarled Handy Solomon, "You misbekiss the Book on that! I'll cut your heart out and feed it to the sharks!" "Potha!" sneered Perdosa, "You cut heem you finger wid your knife."

They wrangled. At first I thought the quarrel genuine, but after a moment or so I could not avoid a sort of reminiscent impression of the cheap melodrama. It seemed incredible, but soon I could not dodge the conclusion that it was a made-up quarrel designed

blows, but it did come to black looks on meeting, muttered oaths, growls of ters with a belaying pin. emnity every time they happened to him, was ridiculous.

foresail, lowered the peak of the main- that supposition, was childish enough sail, and waited to feel of it-a rough but I referred the exaggerated cunand ready seamanship often used in ning to Handy Solomon, and considerthese little California wind-jammers, ed it quite adequately explained. It is tinctly Handy Solomon's voice behind

little diversions, mates? And w'at do "I'll kill you sure, you greaser, as you expect to gain? I asks you that, oon as my hands are free!" now. You poor little infants! Ain't you And some muttered reply from never tackled him afore? Don't re-Mexican. member a little brigatine, name of the

The wind hit us hard, held on a 'ew moments, and moderated to a stiff brewing among the crew.' puff. There followed the rain, so of To this he received no reply. The course I knew # would amount to moved. men sullenly assisted each other. Then othing. I was just stooping to throw they went immediately on deck and to the stops off the staysail when I felt myself seized from behind, and forced rapidly toward the side of the ship. Of course I struggled. The Japanese

made good time, but for a long while catches you around the waist from behind. It is a part of the One evening before the night winds sat in the shadow of the extra dory proposition from the ordinary "policeon top of the deck house. The moon man jiu-jitsu." I picked it up from a riend in the nobility. It came in very handy now, and by good luck a roll visible, Certainly the Nigger did not of the ship helped me. In a moment I know of my presence, for he came and stood within three feet of me stood free, and Perdosa was picking himself out of the scuppers. without giving any sign. The compan-The expression of astonishment was ion was open. In a moment some door

fairly well done-I will say that for thousand dollars' worth of pearls.

"Senor!" he gasped, "Eet is you! them pearls. They had three or four Sacrosanta Maria! I thought you was shindles and killed one man over the

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If you have no trade, your pay will Training Station you are assigned to

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Office open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

don! Have I hurt you?"

He approached me almost wheedling. I could have laughed at the vil- its height and spread his thick arms Why should they desire to do so? lain. It was all so transparent. He no out in luxury of stretching. "Why?" had to give it up, but the fact itself more mistook me for Handy Solomon he repeated, exhaling abruptly. "Be- extraordinary weapon, but effective at was obvious enough. I laughed to see than he felt any real enmity for that cause their captain was Ezra Selover! short range. them. The affair did not come to person. But being angry, and perhaps Well, Mr. Eagen," he went on crisply, "Here's a few loose cartridges," said a little scared, I beat to his quar

On thinking the matter over, how- and palaver and git into dark corners, pass each other on the deck. Perdosa ever, I failed to see all the ins and and sharpen their knives, and perhaps was not so bad; his Mexican blood in- outs of it. I could understand a desire light it out as to which one's going clined him to the histrionic, and his to get rid of me; there would be one to work the monkey-doodle business Mexican cast lent itself well to evil less of the afterguard, and then, too, in the doctor's chest, and which one's looks. But Handy Solomon, for the I knew too much of the men's senti- going to tie up the sacks of them diafirst time in my acquaintance with ments, if not of their plans. But why all this elaborate farce of the mock About this time we crossed into fre- quarrel and the alleged mistake? quent thunders. One evening just at Could it be to guard against possible dark we made out a heavy black failure? I could hardly think it worth squall. Not knowing exactly what while. My only theory was that they weight lay behind it, I called up all had wished to test my strength and dehands. We ducked the staysail and termination. The whole affair, even on was pretty busy, but I heard dis- a minor point, but subsequently I learned that this surmise was correct. I was to be saved because none of the self. Then there's nothing more to conspirators understood navigation. The next morning I approached

Captain Selover. "Captain," said I, "I think it my duty to report that there is trouble

"There always is," he replied, un

"But this is serious. Dr. Schermer. horn came aboard with a chest which the men think holds treasure. The other evening Robinson overheard him his assistant that he could easily have a little trick to fool a man who fill the box with diamonds, Of course, he was merely illustrating the value of some scientific experiment, taught the Samurai-quite a different Robinson thinks, and has made the others think, that the chest contains something to make diamonds with. I am sure they intend to get hold of it

differently.

The affair is coming to a head." Captain Selover listened almost in "I came back from the islands last year." he piped, "with three hundred but I was prepared for histri- There was 16 in the crew, and every man of them was blood hungry for

dat Solomon! Pardon me, senor! Par- proper way to divide the loot after lost and hopeless! Here, take this, it'll they had got it. They didn't get it. Why?" He drew his powerful figure to "Capt Ezra Selover is their captain, and they know it! They'll talk monds, but they won't git any furth-

there are few occupations holding

forth better chances for advancement

If you enlist as apprentice seaman

Training Station at Norfolk, Va., or

will be assigned to a Naval

er as long as Captain Ezra is on deck "Yes," I objected, "but they mean business. Last night in the squall one

'What did you do?" he asked. "Hazed him to his quarters with a

elaying pin." "Well, that's all settled then, isn't What more do you want?

"I can take care of myself," he went "You ought to take care of your-

He mused a moment, "You have a gun, of course?" he nquired. "I forgot to ask you." "No," said I.

He whistled "Well, no wonder you feel sort of

make a man of you." He gave me a Colt's .45, the barrel of which had been filed down to about two inches of length. It was a most

and we ain't got men to experiment on, Lick 'em with your fists or a pin, if you can; and if you do shoot, for God's sake just wing 'em a little, They're awful good lads, but a little I took the gun and felt better. With it I could easily handle the members

of my own watch, and I did not doubt that with the assistance of Percy Darrow even a surprise would hardly overwhelm us. I did not count on Dr. Schermerhorn. He was quite capable of losing himself in a problem of tra-jectory after the first shot,

(TO BE CONTINUED).

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There is an evaporation from the body going on continually, day and night, through the pores and glands of the akin. This is nature's way of maintaining the proper temperature of our bodies and of preserving the softness and flexibility of the skin, and so long as the blood is free from impurities no trouble will result. When however, the blood, from any cause pecomes infected with humors and impurities these, too, must be expelled and coming in contact with the delicate tissues and fibres with which the skin is so abundantly supplied they produce irritation and inflammation, and the effect is shown by Eczema, Acne, Tetter, pimples, rashes and skin troubles of various kinds. To effect a cure the blood must be cleansed and purified. This cannot be done with external applications, but requires contitutional treatment. S. S. S. is the best treatment for all skin diseases. It goes down into the circulation, neutralizes and removes the humors and acids and thoroughly cures skin affections of every kind. S. S. S. Supplies the blood with the proper nutritive qualities so that the skin instead of being irritated and diseased by unhealthy humors, is fed and sustained by cooling, realthy blood. Book on Skin Diseases and any medical advice desired sent ree to all who write. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA





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