THE MARYELOUS ADVENTURES OF BARON VON MUN

1720 ----- 1797



re is a good deal of vagueness ut the real origin of the wonderful entions known under this title, ene can say positively whether good old Baron was the author them all, or whether he was credd with many that he never parrated. The only thing that is certain is that the stories were published by German exile in England, Rudolph Eric Raspe, during the Baron's lifetime and translated into German eleven years before Von Munchhau-sen's death. So the logic of the problem is with those who claim that the Baron really did tell all these remarkable tales.

A lovable old bon vivant and raconteur without doubt was the Baron or rather Freiherr Hieronymus Karl Freidrich von Munchhausen of Bodenwerder, Hanover. He was born in 1720. From 1737 to 1739 he served in the Russian cavalry against the Turks, and altogether he had a sufficient exciting and romantic career, his ingenious fancy added to his adventures. The Munchhausen family is still one of the important aristocratic families of Germany, and its that it living representatives hold high rank truth. and are prominent in government and military service to-day. They hardly know whether to be proud or ashamed of their famous old ances-

"Dear sire, friends and hunting companions!" the Baron von Munchhausen always began, rubbing his hands according to custom. Then he took a long draught from the oldfashioned glass that was filled with his favorite drink, a genuine, not too old Rauenthaler wine, gazed thoughtfully into the greenish-yellow fluid, cighed, smiled and began.
"One evening," said he, "I was rid-

ing home after a long day's chase, when my horse stopped suddenly in front of a stream and I discovered to my charging that the bridge had been swept away. Without considering, I gave my horse the spurs and in an instant we were in the air. At that moment it struck me that the animal was too tired to make such a leap without a better start. (We had run

half way across I saw that I had un-derestimated the breadth of the stream. I spurred my Alix again, of a dog holding his birds longer than and he gave himself an extra jerk that. Have you? and darted forward, but still he falled to land. We both alighted in deep dogs that I ever had. When he died mud into which we sank till only the I had his skin tanned and fashioned orse's head was clear.

"Quick action was needed, gentlemen! I gripped my brave horse with with a mighty effort succeeded garment on the field. in hauling myself and my horse out. "All at once without warning, in hauling myself and my horse out. "All at once without warning, in hauling myself and my horse out. "All at once without warning, in hauling myself and my horse out. "All at once without warning, in hauling myself and my horse out." So that it actually squeezed my heart.

once with this same horse Alix. In sprang a covey of quail, of which l the Russian service I led a troop of shot five. I had not walked fifty feet a reconnoitring advance, and acciden-tally met the whole Turkish army need no dog. But it costs me a pret-face to face. I immediately spread ty penny for buttons. I consider this my handful of men in a straight front one of the most touching proofs of across the plain and ordered the the fidelity of a dog even after death charge. The cloud of dust that arose was so huge that the Turks imagined them. They turned back to get behind their fortified town, and we cut them up terribly.

"So hot were we after them that we not only drove them into the town through one gate, but actually out of the town again through the opposito something that truly exceeded our wildest hopes.

"My horse was so wonderfully fast that I was far ahead of my men. could reach, and had closed the town gate behind the fleeing army, I rode back. Imagine my amazement when I failed to find a single one of my hussars in the town! "I turned my horse's head to the

fountain in the market place to let him drink. The beast drank without stopping. I waited patiently for it to quench that unheard-of thirst, and turned again to look for my men. "What did I see? The whole after-

part of the poor animal was missing; and all the water it drank simply ran out again without refreshing the faithful brute. While I was wondering, my groom came galloping up and explained that as I crowded through the first portal on top of the Turks the gate had been dropped with a rush and had cut my horse clean in two! Despite this, its swiftness was such that even with only two legs it kept pace with the fleeing Turks.

"I galloped back to the portal, and very skillful regimental saddler stitched both halves together so well that the keenest eye could hardly no-

"It was nothing at all for me to ride thirty or forty miles on this and since then we have had eight horse in one afternoon and to course a few hares on the way. Once we pursued a hare that crossed the highway just as a coach with two beautiwomen came along. My horse leaped so gracefully at that moment that we went into one window and out of the other (both being fortunately open), and I had barely time to remy hat and beg the ladies'

"Alix and I traveled in Russia that winter. One day I rode hour after hour over an endless waste of snow. Keither village, road, tavern or tree was visible, although forests and uth wind had begun to make night quite mild, so I slept very

middle of a village. There was a trace of my horse; but sud-dy I heard a neighing high in the

" I had a greyhound, by the way that was almost as swift as. Zephyrette was her name. Alix once did I meet another beast that could run faster than she did. It was during a rabbit hunt. We put up a hare that ran like the wind. For two days and nights Zephyrette coursed that hare, gentlemen, yet evseemed to gain fresh speed. At last I got a shot at him and dropped him, and the mystery of his speed was ex plained. The hare had not only the regulation four legs underneath; he had four legs on his back, I have never seen a similar hare again.

"Poor Zephyrette ran so long and so continuously that toward the lat-ter part of her life her legs were almost worn off and I was compelled to use her as a dachsund instead of a greyhound: But it is a wretched and unprincipled invention to say, as some do, that she became so blind that I had to tie a lantern to her tall when

"I had another splendid dog, con-cerning whose deeds a great many ing enough, though they may not be so extraordinary as inventions might

"One day I was quall hunting with Pikas, when he came to a point be-fore a flock of several hundred birds order to go without delay to the Fortress Wesel on a matter of the highest importance. I galloped to my castle, changed my clothes and rode days before I returned.

I wished to go hunting and called for Pikas. My servants told me that the dog had not been seen since my departure and that they had sup-posed he was with me. I rode to the was too tired to make such a leap field and soon found myself near the without a better start. (We had run down thirty hares during the day.) At once I turned his head and we the faithful dog, holding his point, alighted again at the spot we had just but so nearly starved that he looked like a skeleton. I advanced and up "Well, then! I patted the horse's sprang the birds, equally thin. Not neck, rode back a short distance and wishing to slaughter them in that again we jumped. When we were condition I contented myself with one

into a hunting waistcoat, for I had a sentimental desire to have Pikas with me on all my hunts in some form or all the power of my thighs, grasped another. A rather peculiar thing hap-my hair firmly with my right hand pened the first day that I were this

"I had a rather curious experience I stopped. A button flew off and up We were ordered to make before the same thing happened.

"Of course every hunter has odd experiences, and mine are not to be the whole Russian army was before called wonderful, although some are rather interesting. For instance, one morning I saw a flock of fowl on the shot that I struck my head against the doorpost with a crash that made sparks fly out of my eyes. I did not permit that to deter me, of course. But when I arrived at the lake I found that the collision had also knocked the flint from my gun. There I was, with a loaded weapon After I had killed the last enemy I thought. I put the gun to my shoulder, aimed and then hit myself in the eye with all my might. Of course I Imagine my amazement when saw sparks immediately and one of them exploded the priming. The shot went off and I had the pleasure of re-

commandant pointed to the guns "I looked and saw an almost incredible sight. The immense cannon were full of worm holes! The terrible iron worm had attacked them! 'There were sixty-three cases last night,' said

"I shuddered, for this was quick and fearful work, even for the fron worm. I immediately ordered the construction of a great caldron, which was ready within three days. But eleven

"I must confess that I myself did not know exactly at that time how to destroy the worm; but I ordered the caldron to be made white hot and then we threw twenty of the wormeaten cannon into it with twelve that were still sound. To make a long story short, we kept them there in were still sound. To make a long story short, we kept them there in white heat for three days and nights, during which time fifty-one other cannon were eaten by the worms. The garrison had already begun to toast me as the worm hero and cannon doctor, when we took the guns out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the polishing of it; for when the moon came down out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the polishing of it; for when the moon came down out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the polishing of it; for when the moon came down out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the polishing of it; for when the moon came down out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the polishing of it; for when the moon came down out—and found to our horror that all the cannot be a superintending the arp protuberance in the snow and during which time fifty-one other cannon were eaten by the the guns, even the twerve originally

we went hunting.

lies are told by persons who think that it is a joke to tamper with the truth. The strict facts about this in-telligent animal, Pikas, are interest-

I withheld my shot because I was waiting for my wife, who was to come up with my lieutenant and my groom. They did not arrive and I rode back part of the way, leaving the iron worm since.

Pikas on his point. A courier on a foam-lathered horse met me with an lery I have had som there straightway. It was fourteen "On the day after my arrival home

lake and hurried so eagerly to get a

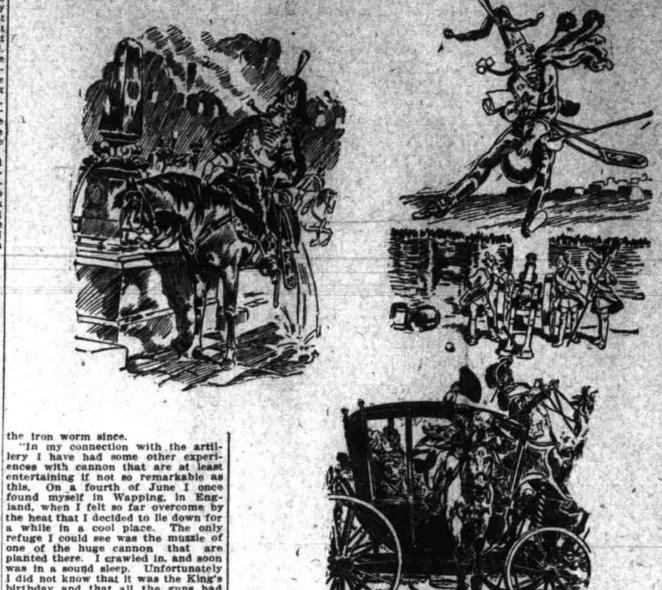
turning with five pairs of duck, four geese and two moorhens. "That trip to the Fortress Wesel, my mission. I consider myself rather which I have just mentioned, was fortunate. The cannon balls were "That trip to the Fortress Wesel. connected with a mysterious occurrence that I did not intend to mention, because it is a State secret. But them I see that you are all curious, and well. as there is little danger of a recurrence of the episode, I will simply ask you to respect my confidence and keep the matter to yourselves, "When I arrived in Wesel, the commandant and the other officers met me with desperate alarm in every feature. Silently they led me to the batteries, and silently, with des-pair in the very motion of his hand.

more. swiftly as the men worked, eleven more guns had been attacked before

the guns, even the tweive originally sound ones, were pierced through and through with worm holes.

"The officers were thunderstruck. Not so I. I ordered the entire garrison out to gather poisonous mush-rooms. We filled the caldron, hoiled greedily at the silly and disgraceful "The officers were thunderstruck what do you suppose? Up thing Alix, thed to the top of the rich steeple. Of course I understood at once it had happened. The whole vitable had been covered with snow in I got there at night, and when nelted before the mouth wind of the I sank down with it, but my be could not. I drew my pistol, the reins in two and Alix sild in and ran to me overloyed. The rich keeper told me that such a rigil is not at all extraordinary that part of Russia. But occurs it is not at all extraordinary that part of Russia. But occurs it is not at all extraordinary that part of Russia. But occurs it is not the poison and disappearated. The officers were thunderstruck. Not so I I ordered the entire garrison out to gather poisonous mushrooms. We filled the caldron, boiled them into a paste, and put all the cannon in. The part morning I visit cannon in. The part morning I

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this day if the owner of the rick had not sold the hay three months afterward. When the men took it down of course they awakened me. narrative has been doubted at times; but the proof of its truth is furnished by a pear tree that stands there to this day. As you know, pear trees blossom in June. When I awoke the tree was full of the finest fully ripened fruit, and very welcome it was to me after my long sleep.

"By the way, while I was in rather amusing thing. Whenever he snapped his whip he did it in such a way that the lash formed a perfect monogram G. R. (Georgius Rex) in the air. It was rather skillful. "However, I was going to mention

birthday and that all the guns had been loaded to fire a salute. Presently the troops arrived, the artillerymen took their stations and off went the

cannon. Your humble servant, the Baron von Munchhausen, was shot

"We Munchhausens always have

Perhaps I might be asleep to

been unusually sound sleepers, and did not awake, but slumbered peace

clear across the Thames and headfirst into a mighty hayrick.

fully.

another little episode connected with the artillery. When I was in the Prussian army, we besteged a little fort, the name of which I have forgotten. The commander was anxious to get information as to the affairs in the beleagued garrison, but the enemy guarded all the approaches so well that it was impossible to send in a BDY.

"An idea struck me. myself alongside of the muzzle our largest cannon, and as it was fir-ed I sprang on the ball. The moment I was under way I began to consider; and I saw many difficulties. It is true that I was certain to enter the fort. But how could I get out again? They might hang me as a spy. That would never do.

"Just then a cannon ball from the fort. With quick decision I leaped from my own to that of the enemy and returned to my men with a whole skin, though I had failed in extremely smooth and it was some-what difficult to maintain a seat on them. However, all's well that ends

"During this campaign we fought constantly until my right arm become so customed to smitting with the sword that for eight days after our final battle it continued the motion involuntarily. I had to rie it down to my side and leave it that way for the

habit to wear off.

"Habit is a queer matter, anyway.
For instance, gentlemen, we are all in the habit of seeing the moon wane. monthly and finally disappear, and then we think that the so-called new moon is arriving. Well, I can tell you differently. At least once the entire world was missed by its habit of

thinking that way.
"I was on a visit to the Shah of Persia, and one evening he entertain-ed me with his very fine declaration of Persian moonlight poetry, when he groaned suddenly and said: 'Alas! there are spots on the moon again. That is rust from the dampness of the season.' Of course, I smiled within myself at the Shah's ignorance; but he was impassioned about the moon. so to do him a favor I decided on a feat that I do not hesitate to characterize as immensely difficult.

"Not to annoy you with dull details, succeeded in devising a machine which enabled us to lower the moon to the earth. When the Shah saw it coming he ordered all his soldiers to

dog pointed a fine covey. I had only by I entered the room half an hour af-a moment to decide. Quickly I load-terward, and what did I see? That a moment to decide. Quickly I loaded and what did I see? That it is, flushed the birds, waited till they were in line and fired, and just as I entered he was in the There were seven birds in the covey. When I went to see what execution I had done I found the entire seven neatly spitted on the ramrod. I "Foxes remind me of wolves. In carried my same home that way and the seven had not been they way and the seven had not seen that they way and the seven had been they way and the seven had been they are home. The seven had not seen they are had not seven had not seen they had not seven had not seen they had not seen t carried my game home that way and had it put right over the fire and served on brochette.

"Shortly after that I had another experience that demanded sudden ingenuity. I came unexpectedly on a black fox. It would have been a thousands pities to damage the wonderful pelt with a bullet. The beast was standing quite still beside a great oak. Again I had a happy thought. I remembered that I had put a big nail into my pocket to repair a shel-ter hut in the forest. I rammed it into my gun instead of a buildt very carefully and succeeded in ac-complishing my design. The fox was neatly nailed to the oak by his tail. Then I took my dog whip and lather-ed him till he could bear it no longer and finally slipped out of his skin and ran for his life.

"You laugh! Yet consider that, after all, it was due to the lucky circumstance of my having a nail in my pocket. I was less lucky a few years ago when I stumbled across a fine stag when I had neither shot nor nail, All I had in my hand was a fist-ful of cherry pits, for I had just been eating that fruit. Well, I couldn't let that noble stag go without an at-tempt, so I loaded the stones into the gun, fired straight at his forehead and— the stag looked at me ironi-cally and walked quietly away.

once. I sprang for a young birch and had just managed to pull my ligs out of harm's way when the furious brute struck the tree, and with such force that his tushes went into the trunk at one side and protruded from the

at one side and protruded from the other.

"I saw my opportunity. I slid down, picked up a heavy stone and clinched the points of the tushes. Then I walked home at my ease, went to bed and returned with a rifle and cart next morning after breakfast. The boar weighed 500 pounds.

"By the way, you will have wondered that I succeeded in bending a boar's tushes as if they were ironnails. This was not possible until after I had battered them with the stone till they were thoroughly heated and thus became soft enough to bend.

one behind. I almed and fired. The young boar scampered away. The old fellow remained standing as if rooted to the spot. I walked cautiously up to him and found that he was stone blind and that he held a bit of the tail of the young boar in his mouth My bullet had cut the tail off. I took home the blind boar following me trustfully. I shall never forget my wife's laughter when I thus delivered the game right at the kitchen door.

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Russia one winter I was driving a single horse to a sleigh just outside St. Petersburg, Suddenly a gigantic wolf came up behind us and leaped at me. I threw myself flat, and the wolf, missing me, fell on the poor horse, Immediately he began to eat it ravenously. He gorged its hind-quarters whole, a fact which only redoubled the speed of the wretched animal, I ventured to raise my head, and saw that he was swallowing the rest of the horse.

"I seized the whip and began to lash him with all my might. He leaped forward, the remains of the horse fell from his jaws, and, of course, left him stricking in the harness. I gave him no time to think, but plied the whip madly. Thus we went helter-skelter until we reached St. Petersburg and flew through the gates, to the really extreme surprise of every-

me my life, I was without weapons and on foot. The brute jumped at me from a dark thicket, and I had just time to see his widely opened jaws time to see his widely opened laws before he was on me. Involuntarily I thrust out my arm, and my fist went into the beast's gullet. Once in, I pushed with all my might till it was in up to my shoulder.

"We looked at each other in no amiable frame of mind. I could see the determination in his eyes to

"It was quite a joke on me, for of course people got wind of it. In fact after a couple of years I was so tired of having some fellow hunters offer me a handful of cherry pits that I hated the very names of cherries. Then it happened that the same party of us hunted in the same district. Suddenly a mighty stag broke trict. Suddenly a mighty stag broke threw him under some bushes, cover and came straight at us. What was the surprise of my companions to morning. Through him the city learn-

was the surprise of my companions to see that he had a cherry tree ten feet high between his antiers! I laid him low and thus had my roast and my dessert secured by one shot.

"I did not have even cherry pits a few days later when I met a maddened old boar, which charged me at once I sprang for a young birch and the distance of the little affair, as, of course, I had not mentioned it.

"I must confess that I never cared to repeat that procedure. When I see a mad dog in a narrow street of St. Petersburg soon afterward, I did not walt, but ran. To expedite my estimated to repeat that procedure, which he was relied I told my cape I threw him my coat, which he worried till he was killed. I told my servant to hang the coat in the ward-robe and take it to the tailor next day to be cleaned and repaired.
"The next morning I was awakened

"The next morning I was awakened by his cries. I sprang out of bed, and the servant was shouting: 'Herr, Baron! Herr Baron! Your coat has gone mad!' Correct! My coat was pulling all my other garments around the floor and tearing them to bits. It had hydrophobits! Just as I arrived it seized my evening clothes and began to worry them savagely. I ran for my pistol and shot the mad coat. Then I burned all the other clothes, for fear that they mights develop the disease, too.

"By the way, one afternoon in the jungle I heard a rustling behind me and there crouched a huge lion preparing to leap! I must confess to my shame that I lost my presence of mind and fired a charge of bird-shot at him, a most foolish proceeding. It only enraged him, affd I wheeled around to run. A cold chill went over me, for I turned only to find myself face to face with an immense crocface to face with an immense croc-odile that had already spread its hor-rible jaws to their fullest extent to

jumped over me and clean into the open jaws of the reptile!

"It was the work of an instant to leap to my feet and back the great cat's head off with my hunting knife. Hardly had the body fallen at my feet, before I seized my gun and forced the head down into the crocodile's guilet

"Dear friends and hunting companions. When the rest of the party arrived there was some astonishment at the double bag. We measured the crocodile on the spot and found that it was exactly 40 feet 7 inches long. It is now a prized possession of the great museum in Amsterdam, but I never go there because the shameful liar who has charge of the exhibits is in the habit of telling strangers that the llon leaped clear through the reptile before I could kill him. To embellish an adventure thus untruth embellish an adventure thus untruth-fully is highly offensive to me.

"I can tell you that a great load fell from my heart when I saw both brutes dead at my feet. By the way, I can show you that load some day, I picked it up as it fell and have it in my collection. It is a red white and stone and weighs thirty-two

"I quite forgot to tell you that on my way to Ceylon we stopped at an island where we saw a storm that was different from any I had seen before. It tore up trees of enormous bulk the roots, and though they weighed many tons they were carried so high by the wind that they appeared like feathers floating in the air. As soon as the storm subsided they all fell perpendicularly into their respective places and took root again. I said 'all.' That is not precisely true. When the largest tree was blown into the air it happened to have on it an old man and his wife, who were gathering cucumbers. (That honest veg-etable grows on trees there.) The

weight of this couple overbalanced the tree when it descended and brought it down out of position.

"It struck the headman of the island and killed him on the spot. He had run from his house when the storm began and was just returning through his own gate when this fortunate accident happened.

"I say fortunate." This requires some explanation. The chief was an avaricious, oppressive, infamous ty-

avaricious, oppressive, infamous ty-rant. He had plundered the natives, and they were starving, while the goods that he had taken from them were rotting in his stores. The grate-ful nearly chose the two customber were rotting in his stores. The grate-ful people chose the two cucumber gatherers to govern them as a mark of their esteem for having destroyed, the tyrant.

"However, we were speaking of heat. I call to mind an incident which will serve to suggest what real heat can be like. It was when I

heat. I call to mind an incident which will serve to suggest what real heat can be like. It was when I was in Turkey. An American named Smith arrived in Constantinople one day in a balloon in which he had started from New York five days before, thus making a fairly quick passage. He invited me to make an ascension with him. We took with us only one companion, a huge Persian hound. We rose swiftly. In five minutes we were so high that I could see the entire Black Sea spread out below, also a good bit of the Mediterranean and a part of Africa. In an hour all Europe lay below us like a map.

"Still we went higher, till at last we could see all of Asia, including China and Japan. It was really interesting. I was so occupied in looking downward that I did not realize, until we were at least fifteen or twenty miles above sea level, that my friend Smith could not manage his monster. I tried to help him by opening the valve and broke the rope. I fell backward, and the rarefied air, together with the terrible heat due to our being so much nearer the sun, overcame me, so that I lay unconscious for a time.

"When I recovered I found Smith lying insensible, and the hound quite dead. I seized a gun and shot at the sax bag. The air was so thin that I could not hear the report; but the shot had its effect. It tore holes into the bag and we began to descend.

Mr. Smith recovered gradually, and we both began to feel very hungry.

vided us with dessert at exactly the right moment. After we had eaten a couple of bushels of these we felt refreshing enough to climb down, and discovered that we had landed in Arabia. We made our way to Europe without any notable happening. I will merely mention, as another illustration of the degree of heat, that all the skin came off my face in one piece. I had it tanned and made into a pair of ahoes, which I kept on day and night for fourtnen years without their showing the slightest signs of wear.

nim by the throat and held him firmly till be froze to death.

"It was cold that winter in St. Petersburg, and in Russia generally. One day we were travelling with a postition and we commented on the fact that he did not begulie the way as most of his class do, by playing sweet tones on his horn. What an injustice we did the poor fellow! That evening when we alighted at a cuyent or everybody crowded around the huge stove. The postilion hung his horn up on the wail. Suddenly it began to play. Tune after tune came out of it. All the famous melodies poured forth with delightful pathon, hour after hour. They were the tunes that the postilion had tried to play during the day, but without producing a sound because the frightful cold froze all the notes before they could come out.

"Of course you never have experienced such a cold in this country. Therefore, you cannot realize what a Russian winter means, a winter when the weather gets so cold that it is impossible to light a candle because the wax freezes immediately under the burning wick.

"That is a trifle otherwise than the weather that I experienced in Ceylon, where I went hunting with the governor. I wore a coar with leaden buttons, and it happened often that

where I went hunting with the governor. I wore a coat with leaden buttons, and it happened often that the heat was so intense that one or more buttons would melt during the law was along the explanation, like day.

"On that same voyage I had an ex-cellent hunting dog aboard. One day when our observations showed that we were at least a thousand miles "I am sure that Hercules himself would have done what I did in this terrible predicament. I sank to the ground, stunned with terror. The next instance I heard a loud crash and lifted my head. In his fury the lion jumped over me and clean into the Finally I wagered one hundred guin-eas that we would find game within half an hour.

"Scarcely had the wager been en-tered before the sailors, who had been fishing, hauled in a shark of ordinary size. The dog made a dead point at the sea monster, and I said: "There

is the game!"
"Dear friends and hunting compan

wind blew from the east for three minutes and then from the west for three minutes, alternating during the whole night without pause. With the dawn came a mighty gale from the north. It lasted for a whole month. We saw neither sun, moon nor stars during all that time. The power of this wind can be better appreciated when I mention that our ship did not climb to the crest of a wave and then shoot down into the trough and so on. For that whole month it and so on. For that whole month it was simply blown from crest to crest in a perfectly horizontal line. This is something that happens only rarely to a vessel like ours, that must have weighed many thousands of tons, with her 500 men and seventy cannon.

"When the storm was over we were

dismasted and ulte helpless. Our pro-visions were exhausted and we were getting worried, when suddenly ev-erybody sniffed. The air had a most remarkable aroma. It was that of roast beef, oranges and cigars. So powerful and nutritious was the air that we lived on the smell alone for a whole week. On the eighth day we sighted land. It was Havana.

"We landed the next day, and I happened to tell some of the tobacco-planters a few of my adventures. My hearers were so amazed that some of them stood on their heads with wonder, while others clutched their hair with both hands and held it down, crying that my narratiyes were raising

neir hair.
"I left their company at the first "I left their company at the first opportunity. People who cannot distinguish between pure fabrication and simple truth simply told are beyond hope. Everybody who knows me knows how utterly impossible it is for me to tell even the least of false-hoods. I believe that this repugnance to lies is an innerited trait in our family, for I have several relatives who are seized with severe fits whenever the slightest untruth is uttered in their presence. Good night!"

Next Sunday's One-Page Clas

"THE CALL OF THE SOUTH."

Birmingham Age-Herald.

In it are subjects which the South and the North, too, have neglected to discuss. Not because they are not vital subjects, but simply because—well there does not seem to be any good reason why they should not be thoroughly thrashed out. If these subjects are not settled, and they can never be settled without the consent of the South, time holds terrible things in store for this whole country. Mr. Durham holds the mirror of future possible events up to us in a fascinating, dramatic form. The piot of the story would alone be suf-