

# Brewster's Millions

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## SCENES OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

CHAPTER I.—A surprise in honor of the twenty-fifth birthday of Monty Brewster, grand-nephew and heir of Philip Brewster, millionaire, interrupted by the announcement of his death. Brewster's death. The French members of the company were not equal to his pronunciation and were under the impression that he was still talking English. They were profoundly impressed with his deference and grace and accorded his preamble a round of applause. The Americans did their utmost to persuade him to be seated, but their uproar was mistaken for enthusiasm, and the applause grew louder than ever. Subway held up his hand for silence, and his manner suggested that he was about to utter some peculiarly important thought. He waited until a pin-fall could have been heard before he went on.

the rest of the morning, and when the result was announced at luncheon there was general consternation. It appeared that ten days later occurred the fete day of some minor saint who had not for years been accorded the honor



Monty turned to look upon the half dead sailor.

of a celebration. Monty proposed to revive the custom by arranging a second carnival.

CHAPTER XIX (Continued). "I never set eye on him before—perfect stranger," wouldn't have hesitated a minute, but the deck was crowded with a lot of his friends. One clap was his bunkie. So, really now, it wasn't my place to jump in after him. He could swim a bit, and I yelled to him to hold up and I'd tell the captain. Confounded captain wasn't to be found, though. Somebody said he was asleep. In the end I told the mate. By this time we were a mile away from the place where he went overboard, and I told the mate I didn't think we could find him if we went back. But he lowered some boats, and they put back fast. Afterward I got to thinking about the matter. Of course if I had known him—if he had been one of you—it would have been different."

"And you were the best swimmer in college, you miserable rat!" exploded Dr. Lotless.

"There was a wild rush for the upper deck, and Vanderpool was not the hero of the hour. The flitter had turned and was steaming back over her course. Two small boats were racing to the place where Reggy's unknown had gone over."

"Where is Brewster?" shouted Joe Bragdon.

"I can't find him, sir," answered the first mate.

"He ought to know of this," cried Mr. Valentine.

"There! They are picking someone up over yonder," exclaimed the mate. "See! That first boat has laid to and they are dragging. Yes, sir, he's saved!"

A cheer went up on board and the men in the small boats waved their caps in response. Everybody rushed to the rail as the flitter drew up to the boats, and there was intense excitement on board. A gasp of amazement went up from every one.

Monty Brewster, drenched, but smiling, sat in one of the boats, and leaning limply against him, his head on his chest, was the sailor who had fallen overboard. Brewster had seen the man in the water and, instead of wondering what his antecedents were, leaped to his assistance. When the boat reached him his unconscious burden was a dead weight and his own strength was almost gone. Another minute or two and both would have gone to the bottom.

"I suppose you will have the confetti made of thousand franc notes and offer a house and lot as a prize." And Bragdon feared that his sarcasm was almost insulting.

"Really, Monty, the scheme is ridiculous," said DeMille. "The police won't allow it."

"Won't they, though?" said Monty exultingly. "The chief happens to be Philip's brother-in-law, and we had him on the telephone. He wouldn't listen to the scheme until we agreed to make him grand marshal of the parade. Then he promised the co-operation of the entire force and hoped to interest his colleague, the chief of the fire department."

"The parade will consist of two gaudy bands and the Brewster party in carriages," laughed Mrs. Dan. "Do you expect us to go before or after the happy carts?"

"We review the procession from the hotel," said Monty. "You needn't worry about the fete. It's going to be great. Why, an Irishman isn't fonder of marching than these people are of having a carnival."

"The men in the party went into executive session as soon as Monty had gone to interview the local authorities and seriously considered taking measures to subdue their host's eccentricities. But the humor of the scheme appealed to them too forcibly, and almost before they knew it they were making plans for the carnival."

"Of course we can't let him do it, but it would be a pity," said Subway Smith. "Think of a cakewalk between policemen and laundresses!"

"I always feel devilish the moment I get a mask on," said Vanderpool, "and you know, by Jove, I haven't felt that way for years."

"That settles it, then," said DeMille. "Monty would call it off himself if he knew how it would affect Reggie."

Monty returned with the announcement that the mayor of the town would declare a holiday if the American could see his way to pay for the repairs on the marlin roof. A circus which was traveling in the neighborhood was guaranteed expenses if it would stop over and occupy the square in front of the Hotel de Ville. Brewster's enthusiasm was such that no one could resist helping him, and for nearly a week his friends were occupied in studying the details of the event, and encouraging the shopkeepers to do their best. Although the scheme had been conceived in the spirit of a lark, it was not so received by the townsmen. They were quite serious in the matter. The railroad officials sent advertisements broadcast, and the local cure called to thank Brewster for resurrecting, as it were, the obscure saint. The expression of his gratitude was so mingled with flattery and appeal that Monty could not overlook the hint that a new altar place had long been needed.



Monty's arrival gave him a new conception of the strength of his face, and his arrest had probably saved him from worse punishment.

"I told you I couldn't wear a mask," he explained ruefully as Monty led him home. "But how could I know that he could hear me all the time?"

The day after the carnival Brewster drove his guests over to Monte Carlo. He meant to stay only long enough to try his luck at the tables and lose enough to make up for the days at sea when his purse was necessarily idle. Swearingen Jones was forgotten, and soon after his arrival he began to plunge. At first he lost heavily, and it was with difficulty that he concealed his joy. Peggy Gray was watching him and in whispers implored him to stop, but Mrs. Dan excitedly urged him to continue until his luck changed.

To the girl's chagrin it was the more reckless advice that he followed. In so desperate a situation he felt that he could not stop. But his luck turned too soon.

"I can't afford to give up," he said miserably to himself after a time. "I'm already a winner by \$5,000, and I must at least get rid of that."

Brewster became the center of interest to those who were not playing, and people marveled at his luck. They quite misinterpreted his eagerness and the flushed anxious look with which he followed each spin of the wheel. He had chosen a seat beside an English duchess whose practice it was to appropriate the winnings of the more inexperienced players, and he was aware that many of his gold pieces were being deliberately stolen. Here, he thought, was at least a helping hand, and he was on the point of moving his stack toward her side when DeMille interfered. He had watched the duchess and had called the croupier's attention to her neat little method. But that austere individual frowned him by saying in surprise, "But she's a duchess—what do you expect?"

"Better cash in and change your seat, Monty. They're robbing you," he whispered.

"Cash in when I'm away ahead of the game? Never!" and Monty did his best to assume a joyful tone.

"I'm so glad for your sake that you did not stop when I asked you, Monty. Just your luck does not change my belief that gambling is next to stealing," she went on.

"I wish I had taken your advice," he said gloomily.

"And mind the fortune you have won? How foolish of you, Monty! You were a loser by several thousand dollars then," she objected, with whimsical inconsistency.

"But, Peggy," he said quietly, looking deep into her eyes, "it would have won me your respect."

"[TO BE CONTINUED.]  
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