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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27, 1905

The Standard Oil Company has de-
cided to run a pipe line into Panama.
This means another emergency.

Envoy Witte complained of the
heat at Portsmouth last summer.
Guess he has something he would
trade for it now.

Perhaps it would be well for Secre-
tary Root to take an option on the
Isle of Pines. It might come in
handy some day for a Christmas tree.

It would be in strict accordance
with the irony of fate if young Mr.
Hyde should one of these days demand
that his successors resign for the good
of the Equitable.

Capital punishment is store hence-
forth for burglars in Mississippi.
But it is difficult to applaud a state
that puts up with Vardaman.

One of the most distressing things in
life for Governor La Follette is that
he is compelled to resign one office
in order to take another.

If a fraction of the news from
Russia is true, the wonder is that
there is any Russia.

A carpenter returned from Panama
states that a lunch there costs \$5. Be-
fore forming a final opinion on the
subject inquirers would like to see
the complete order. A lunch has
been known to reach that figure in all
parts of the world.

SIR HENRY MORGAN BUCCANEER

By CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY,
Author of "The Southerners," "For
Love of Country," "The Grip of
Honor," Etc., Etc.

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapter

Sir Henry Morgan, former pirate, having
purchased immunity and knighthood
from the king of England, has reformed
and has become vice governor of Jama-
ica. He is deposed and, killing the offi-
cers sent to arrest him, determines to
become again a freebooter. Benjamin
Hollingshead, ex-pirate, who has been bit-
terly wronged by Morgan, joins the for-
tunes of the latter in order to seek an op-
portunity to wreak vengeance on him.
Having recruited a crew of ex-pirates and
other desperadoes, Morgan seizes an
English frigate and murders her crew.
Off for the Spanish coast in search of
treasure. In a desperate action, wherein
are shown the daring and resourceful-
ness of Morgan and the courage of his
men, he defeats two Spanish frigates
and captures their convoy, a treasure
galleon carrying an abbeys and priests
as passengers. Morgan shows his
qualities by heaving overboard a mutin-
eer and shooting down a priest who at-
tempts to save the man. Wrecked on the
Venezuelan coast, near La Guayra,
to which city Morgan is attracted by
Donna Mercedes de Lara, daughter of
the viceroy of Venezuela. Donna Mer-
cedes and Captain Dominique Alvarado,
comandante of La Guayra, are in love
with each other, but the unknown par-
entage of Alvarado prevents their mar-
riage. Donna Mercedes is betrothed by
her father to Don Felipe de Tobar, friend
of Alvarado. Alvarado is tempted by his
loved one to forget his duty to the viceroy
and Don Felipe and to fly with her in-
stead of donveying her safely from Car-
acas to La Guayra. He resists.

"Senorita, this subject is forbidden."
"Stop!" cried the girl. "I absolve you
from all injunctions of silence. I, too,
am a De Lara, and in my father's ab-
sence the head of the house. The duty
thou hast sworn to him thou owest me.
Art still in the same mind as last night,
I say?"
"Last night I was a fool!"
"And this morning?"
"I am a slave."
"A slave to what? To whom?"
"Donna Mercedes," he cried, turning
an imploring glance upon her, "press
me no further. Indeed, the burden is
greater than I can bear."
"A slave to whom?" she went on in-
sistently. She laid her hand upon his
strong arm and bent her head close to

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ward him. They were far from the oth-
ers now, and the turns of the winding
road concealed them.
"A slave to whom? Perhaps to-me?"
she whispered.
"Have mercy on me," he cried. "To
you--yes. But honor, duty"--
"Again those hateful words!" she in-
terrupted, her dark face flushing with
anger. "Were I a man, loved I a wom-
an who loved me as I--as I--as one
you know, I would have seized her in
spite of all the world! Once she had
fled to the shelter of my arms, while
life beat in my heart none should tear
her thence."
"Thy father"--
"He thinks not of my happiness."
"Say not so, Donna Mercedes."
"Tis true. It is a matter of con-
venient arrangement. Two ancient
names, two great fortunes, cry aloud
for union, and they drown the voice
of the heart. I am bestowed like a
chattel."
"Don Felipe"--
"Is an honorable gentleman, a brave
one. He needs no defense at my
hands. That much, at least, my father
did. There is no objection to my suitor
save that I do not love him."
"In time--in time you may," gasped
Alvarado.
"Dost thou look within thine own
heart and see a fancy so evanescent
that thou speakest thus to me?"
"Nay, not so."
"I believe thee, and were a thousand
years to roll over my head thine image
would still be found here."
She laid her tiny gloved hand upon
her breast as she spoke in a low voice,
and this time she looked away from
him. He would have given heaven and
earth to have caught her yielding
figure in his arms. She drooped in
the saddle beside him in a pose which
was a confession of womanly weak-
ness, and she swayed toward him as
if the heart in her body cried out to
that which beat in his own breast.
"Mercedes! Mercedes!" he said.
"You torture me beyond endurance!
Go back to your duenna, to Senora
Agapida, I beg of you! I can stand no
more! I did promise and vow in my
heart--my honor--my duty"--
"Aye, with men it is different," said
the girl, and the sound of a sob in her
voice cut him to the heart, "and these
things are above love, above every-
thing. I do not--I cannot understand.

jected me. I have offered myself to
you a second time after the refusal
of last night. I, too, am a slave. I
love you. Nay, I cannot marry Don
Felipe de Tobar. 'Twere to make a
sacrilege of a sacrament."
"Thy father"--
"I have done my best to obey him.
I can no more."
"What wilt thou do?"
"This!"
The road at the point they had ar-
rived wound sharply around the spur

His instant promptness saved her



of the mountain which arose above
them thousands of feet on one side and
fell abruptly away in a terrific precip-
ice upon the other. As she spoke she
struck her horse again with the whip.
At the same time by a violent wrench
on the bridle rein she turned him swift-
ly toward the open cliff. Quick as
she had been, however, Alvarado's own
movement was quicker. He struck
spur into his powerful barb and with
a single bound was by her side in the
very nick of time. Her horse's fore-
feet were slipping among the loose
stones on the edge. In another second
they would both be over. Alvarado
threw his right arm around her and
with a force superhuman dragged her
from the saddle, at the same time forc-
ing his own horse violently backward
with his bridle hand. His instant
promptness had saved her, for the
frightened horse she rode, unable to
control himself, plunged down the cliff
and was crushed to death a thousand
feet below.

To Be Continued

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Bousquet and Holm.

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