

The Cruise of The Last Hope

A Thanksgiving Day
Story.

By LOUISE B. CUMMINGS

Johnny Baxter was born on the Maine coast and was more at home on the water when he was ten years old than on land. At any rate, he liked the water better, for, as he put it, the boat did his walking for him, and that was much better than using his legs. Johnny flourished as a boy before the period of motorboats, but he was scarcely into his teens when he had rigged a little three cornered sail on a six foot pole in a punt and seemed to know by instinct how to navigate. He used to frighten his mother by going out in his punt into open water, but he was never frightened himself. We are not usually frightened at that to which we are accustomed. Johnny was several times caught in a storm out in water where the force of the waves was unbroken by any intervening land, but he never lost his head. But one day he dropped a lighted match in a thicket dried after a long drought and started a blaze. He ran to the nearest house so frightened that he was scarcely able to warn the inmates of the danger that threatened the region. When the fire was put out he sailed away in his boat. When asked why he did so he replied that he didn't like being ashore; it made him afraid.

Bessie Andrews, a couple of years younger than Johnny, was as amphibious as he. They went to and from school together; but, as to play, their playing was done in Johnny's boat. Bessie's mother objected to her child going out with Johnny till she found herself unable to prevent it, then consented on condition that they never sail outside the cove. Conditions with children when they are beyond reach are a dead letter. When Johnny was reproved for breaking the agreement he laid it to the tide or the wind, or both. That ended the argument.

Johnny and Bessie grew up together, and when Johnny came to manhood and the problem of making his own living presented itself he naturally chose the sea. There was, however, a great obstacle in the way of his doing so. He and Bessie had become so used to being together that a separation was terrible to think of. Though Bess was aquatic, being a girl she could not ship with Johnny on the same vessel. Bess proposed dressing as a boy in order to go with him, but Johnny wouldn't hear of it. He said the tight fitting sailor togs would give her away at once.

Johnny shipped before the mast—there were few steamers in those days—for a cruise to the west coast of South America to bring back hides. He was gone two years and would have enjoyed the voyage immensely if he could have had Bessie Andrews with him. As it was, he was mighty glad to get back. When they parted they had not entirely thrown off the childhood companionship that had existed between them; when John returned they flew to each other's arms as a pair of lovers.

John found that during his absence another barrier than the sea had come between him and Bess. An uncle of hers, Nathan Barrows, when a boy had gone to the city and had prospered as a shipping merchant; but, since his wife had not borne him children, he had no one to whom to leave his accumulations. Besides, his wife was an invalid and needed the attention of a younger woman. The couple had spent a summer at Mr. Barrows' old home, where Bessie lived, had taken a fancy to her and had proposed to adopt her and, provided she would remain with them so long as they lived, leave her their property.

This was a severe complication for John Baxter, who could not claim Bess as his bride without doing so to her serious disadvantage. As the wife of a sailor she would be without the companionship of her husband nine-tenths of the time and must live in comparative poverty. As her uncle's adopted daughter she would have all the advantages wealth could bestow.

John was made of such stuff that he would not stand in the way of the girl he loved, though it required all his resolution to give her up. He not only advised his sweetheart to accept the offer, but insisted upon her doing so. She consented at last with the hope that if she and John should outlive Mr. and Mrs. Barrows they might be united. Such a result did not enter John's calculations, and Bess made no mention of her expectations to him.

When John sailed again there was but one comfort for him—Bess was pledged not to marry during her uncle and aunt's lifetime, and John need not marry if he was not so disposed. Nevertheless he expected Bess to take on that refinement city life is supposed to produce, and if she married it would be with a city bred man.

Five years passed, during which John Baxter's sterling worth gained him the position of first mate of a vessel in the China trade. Mrs. Barrows died at this time, and her husband found himself dependent on his adopted daughter for whatever of comfort remained to him. Though growing old, he retained control of his business, and his only regret concerning Bess was that she was not a man, that

he might fit her to manage it when she should own it after his death.

Another five years brought a still greater change. One morning while sitting at his desk in his office Mr. Barrows was stricken with apoplexy and died in a few days. Bess, while she loved her adopted father, had looked forward to a day, after he had finished his career, to her union with John Baxter. She now had a double reason for wishing this union. She had suddenly come into the possession of a shipping business and believed—that which she wished to believe—that John's seafaring life would have fitted him to manage it for her. John was at sea at the time and was not expected to return for several months.

Miss Andrews, after coming into possession of the business, appointed the best man in it to manage it under her direction, she going to the office frequently to overlook it. But, being a practical woman with some head for business, she soon perceived that her manager was unequal to the task. She longed for John's return, firmly believing that, though he had not been educated for the purpose, his knowledge of sea trading would be valuable.

Then came a disappointment. News came that the Petrel, which John on sailing had been appointed to command, had been wrecked in a storm on the east coast of Africa and all hands had been lost. The statement that all had perished was given on hazy authority, and Miss Andrews hoped that some of the crew, including the captain, might have gained the shore in safety. Africa at that time was a wild country, and persons wrecked on its coast were liable either to be murdered or made slaves. Miss Andrews fitted out a ship, made one of her uncle's most trusted captains master and sent him to look for any members of the lost crew that might have been saved from the wreck. She would have gone with the expedition, but at this time she was trying to supply her uncle's place in the management of the business.

The Last Hope—such was the name Miss Andrews gave the rescue vessel—sailed for the coast of Africa on the 10th of September. The last words she spoke to its master were:

"Captain, I'll give you \$100 for every seaman you bring back, \$200 for each officer and \$1,000 for the captain. And if you will bring them in time for Thanksgiving I'll add \$5,000."

"I'll do the best I can, in any event," replied the captain, and, weighing anchor, he sailed.

There were no wireless messages in those days, and the Last Hope was not heard from except on being spoken by an incoming ship on the way out. A month passed and she did not return. Six weeks more went by, and since nothing was heard from her it began to look as if the Last Hope had failed. The day before Thanksgiving Elizabeth Andrews had given up any hope she had cherished of having Captain Baxter with her for the anniversary. She shut herself up in her home, intending to pass the day without making any effort to observe the usual festivities, but being alone was so trying that she determined to go to her office and find relief in occupation.

She had not been there long when she received a telegram. "Last Hope signaled." Then followed three hours of suspense. Had the mission been successful? If so was Captain Baxter among those who would return on the incoming vessel? She tried to think that she was as interested in the others' safety as in his, but she knew in her heart that she was not. She swayed between believing that she would meet her lover again and that she would not. The latter filled her with despair, the former made her tingle to the tips of her fingers.

It would be some time before the vessel would reach the dock, and part of this time she could get away with by making her preparations to go to meet the ship, and a part she would spend on the way. Her impatience to know what had been accomplished led her to start to the dock so early that she was obliged to wait there an hour, and this was the longest hour of all and filled with flashes of hope and despair.

When the ship came in and was swung around there on the upper deck, standing beside her master was a figure which Miss Andrews' eager eyes recognized for John Baxter. He saw her, and smiling, waved to her.

These two who were eager to come together were kept separate for awhile longer by a gap of water some of the time not twenty feet wide. The ship was at last docked, and as soon as the gangplank was run out Captain Baxter, for whom all the others gave way, descended and was met on the dock by the girl who had been instrumental in bringing him and others of his crew home. Notwithstanding those looking on, the couple were locked in an embrace, after which Miss Andrews welcomed the others to their native shore.

That evening the captain and crew of the Last Hope, the captain and a dozen of the crew of the Petrel—all that got ashore from the wreck—sat down to a Thanksgiving dinner. A seat at the head of the table was reserved for Miss Andrews and when the dinner had been disposed of she entered and listened to an account of the sufferings of the returned sailors given by Captain Baxter. They had been slaves from the time they went ashore from the wrecked Petrel till they were redeemed. Before the gathering broke up Miss Andrews handed each man a sum of money for immediate use and the captain of the Last Hope promised reward.

Captain Baxter and Miss Andrews were married the day after Thanksgiving, and the groom at once entered upon the work of untangling his wife's business affairs. He proved to have a head fitted for the purpose and became its permanent manager.

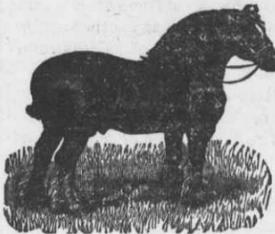
BIG PUBLIC AUCTION

Having sold my farm and intending to go elsewhere for the benefit of my health, I will sell at public auction at my farm 6 miles east of Cottonwood, on reservation line, 3 miles north of Denver and 3 1-4 miles southeast of Greencreek, sale to start at 10 o'clock A. M. on

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, '16

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

11 Head of Good Horses



One Team of Bay Geldings 5 and 6 years old, wt. 3200 lbs.
One Extra Good Black Brood Mare 11 years old, wt. 1400 lbs.
One Sorrel Mare 5 years old, weight 1300 lbs.
One Blue Gelding coming 4 years old, weight 1200 lbs.
One Bay Gelding coming 9 years old, weight 1200 lbs.
One Bay Gelding coming 4 years old, weight 1400 lbs.
Two 2-year old Colts, One yearling Colt, One extra good Saddle Pony for Children

8---Head of Cattle---8

Two extra good Milch Cows, one just fresh, one 2-year old Heifer, Two 2-year old Steers, 2 Calves, 1 Holstein Heifer



3 head of pure-bred Poland-China Sows to farrow in April. 12 doz. Chickens

FARMING MACHINERY, ETC.

One good 7-foot McCormick Binder	One 2-seat Top Hack, almost new	One good Kitchen Range almost new
One 7-foot Single Disc Drill	One Buggy, 1 Fanning Mill, 1 Cider Mill	One New Coal Heater, one Wood Heater
One 12-inch Oliver Gang Plow	Three sets of good Breaching Harness	One Dresser, 1 Sanitary Couch, 1 Lounge
One 14-inch Walking Plow	One set of Lead Harness	One Round Extension Dining Table
One Garden Cultivator and Attachments	One Saddle, 1 new Children's Saddle	Three Beds and Springs,
One 3-section Steel Harrow	800 Grain Bags, new and old	One 8x10 Velvet Rug
One Osborne Disc Harrow with Trucks	A lot of small Farm Articles	One Washing Machine and Wringer, some
One 3 1-2 inch Schuttler Wagon	12 tons of Beardless Barley in barn	Dishes and numerous small Articles.
One 3 1-4 inch Mitchell Wagon	15 sacks of Potatoes	

A BIG FREE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON

Terms of Sale

All sums of \$20 and under, Cash. On amounts over \$20 time until November 1st, 1916, will be given on bankable notes bearing 10 per cent interest.

JOSEPH LEISCHNER, Owner.

I. E. ZUVER, Auctioneer.

HERMAN H. NUXOLL, Clerk.

H. C. MATTHIEN
REAL ESTATE
INSURANCE
FARM LOANS

Am making up a big list of Real Estate Bargains and will get in touch with some of the large agencies. If you want to sell or trade list your property with me. Let Me Clerk Your Sales

JOHN REILAND
Contractor & Builder

Estimates Furnished on
Any Class of Work.

Repairing Promptly Attended to.

Sign of Good Digestion

When you see a cheerful and happy old lady you may know that she has a good digestion. If your digestion is impaired or if you do not relish your meals take a dose of Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach, improve the digestion and cause a gentle movement of the bowels. Obtainable everywhere.

Deputy Pure Seed
Man Here

M. L. Root, deputy state seed inspector for northern Idaho, was in the city yesterday and dropped in for a pleasant chat. He stated that considerable interest is being shown in his work in the northern part of the state and that three organizations of seed growers have already been organized, one at Belmont, uniting with the Athol people in north Kootena county, one in Bonner county and a third at Kamiah. Mr. Root hopes to organize another association at Winchester and states that he is paying more attention at present to the logged-off sections of the state for the reason that farms are not so large there and the residents are more liable to take to the growing of seeds for the reason that they can realize large returns from a few acres while the large farmers will not bother with seed culture at this time.

Mr. Root advises the planting of home grown seeds whenever possible, not only to help the in-

dustry in this country but because much inferior foreign grown seed has been placed on the market. As a slight idea of what the home growing of seeds might mean to this country, Mr. Root states that sixty millions of pounds of garden seeds, thirty million pounds of clover seed and twenty million pounds of alfalfa seed are imported into the United States annually from Europe and that at present it is impossible to secure sugar beet seed, which has been purchased from Germany in the past.

Mr. Root said the farmers of the grain sections must also come to a realization in the near future of the great importance of superior seed, both in grains and potatoes, and stated that there is always a big demand for seed potatoes at fancy prices but the difficulty is to secure any that will grade up to requirements. It is possible Mr. Root may be secured for a lecture here some time next fall or winter.

George Deardoff and family intend leaving next week for Montana where they will take up a homestead.

ATTENTION



Mr. Auto Owner!

Get your curtains repaired with Transparent Celluloid before the Auto Season opens up and avoid the rush.

I am prepared to handle this line of work promptly and carefully.

The different makes of cars and different designs of curtains makes it impossible to issue a printed price at this time.

If you are contemplating the repairs suggested it will pay you to call and inspect the work and get prices.

Martin V. Huff

THE INLAND ABSTRACT
AND INVESTMENT CO., Ltd.
BONDED ABSTRACTERS
Grangeville, Idaho

Ed. Blake is in town today from Keuterville.