BRENT, OF THE BADGER

THE KIDNAPPING OF A GOVERNOR GENERAL.

A ROMANCE.

Copyright By PHILIP LITTLE

general in great surprise.

"I have, and it was but a short time ago, that I discovered that you were the man who had the companion half; Unfortunately, as you, of course, know, neither half is of any use without the other. It cannot be said correctly that either of us has a half, as I have the latitude and longitude of the map, and you have the piece with the island and point on it. The person who tore that part out knew his business. I was com-

your

"How far do you make it?" asked Fitzmorris.

"It is down here as 240 Spanish leagues, say about 800 miles or thereabouts."

"But it is worth it?"

"Worth it? Why man—but I forgot. Your great grandfather was not so particular as mine, was he? Listen:

He took from his pocket a thin package, tied with a faded ribbon. Undoing this carefully he proceeded to read the

of a piece of parchment that

premiums on perpetual fire risks, $1,084,881.86; unearned premiums (50 per cent.)........	$792,190 98	
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired fire risks running more than one year from date of policy, $950,235.24; unearned premiums (pro rata)........	518,802 12	
Gross premiums (including both cash and bills) received and receivable upon all unexpired inland navigation risks, $114,078.80 $69,503.77; unearned premiums, (50 per cent.)........	20,700 88 57,080 15	
Gross premiums (cash and bills) received and receivable on all unexpired marine risks, 100 per cent........	4,603 22	
Total unearned premiums as computed above........		1,401,982 90
All other demands against the company, absolute and contingent due and to become due, admitted and contested, viz: Commissions........		68,517 06
Total amount of all liabilities except capital stock and net surplus........		$1,080,880 03
Joint stock capital actually paid up in cash: deposit capital........		200,000 00
Surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities........		502,865 85

CHAPTER I.

"These rooms are insufferably hot," remarked Captain John Brent, smuggler by profession, as he said to his intimate friend, but called by his enemies, and those who had suffered from his numerous iniuuities, a pirate plain and simple.

He strode up and down the two rooms which were his temporary quarters during his confinement. Yes, sad to relate though it is, Captain Brent was confined in durance vile and did not like it.

"I have no doubt that they are hot," said a short stout man who sat leaning bac in a long arm chair near one of the windows looking out upon the courtyard of the governor's palace which stood over opposite.

"It seems to me, however, if you will permit me to make a suggestion, that they are not as hot as the place that you are going to!"

He chuckled asthmatically, and then became preternaturally grave at the ugly expression that came into the other's face.

"See here, Col. Mercer, it seems to me that your remark is not called for. It may be true that I am not going to be hanged because of your foolish laws and regulations, and it may be that I have only an hour or so to live, but it is mighty bad taste, it strikes me, for you to rub it in when a man is shut up in a couple of rooms like these, his only view confined to the governor's palace, a wretched travesty upon architecture, by the way, and even that you have the poor taste to disfigure if the thing is possible, by erecting the gallows on which I am to be hung this very morning directly in front of it."

"You should feel honored instead of insulted, captain. The 'gibbet." Captain Brent raised his hand deprecatingly, he did not like that word and he was a person of decided tastes, both bad and good. "I repeat the gibbet is never raised in the palace square except for criminals of the highest grade. This is but the second time since governor Fitzmorris took the post that it has happened."

"At what time is this, to you, interesting ceremony to take place? It must be very tiresome to sit as a sort of a death watch over me."

"O, not at all I assure you. You see, this post of aide-de-camp to his excellency is a very monotonous one in the main, unless he takes it into his head to visit some of the neighboring islands, so to tell the truth you are a great source of amusement to me, and I shall quite miss you."

"Really! I never could understand the British idea of humor before. If I amuse you it seems to me that you are making a mighty poor return in hanging me, to say nothing of the fact that you are cutting off your supply so to speak, and I judge that you don't have much fun here, if I afford you amusement under the pleasant conditions."

The aide-de-camp, with the usual imperturbability of his nation saw nothing to cause a smile, and gazed stolidly at the prisoner.

"But you have not answered my question. When is the pleasant little ceremony, in which I seem destined to take a prominent part, to come off? At what hour do you pull the string?"

The officer took his watch from his pocket and looked at it casually. Then jumping to his feet, he cried:

"Why bless my soul! It is almost 7 o'clock. His excellency will have finished his coffee in a few minutes and the execution takes place immediately after that."

"You are horribly abrupt, Col. Mercer! It strikes me that you might at least give a man some slight warning. I have not even time to change my clothes, or rather to dress, and I do object to being sent into eternity in a suit of blue and white striped pajamas! I may be over-particular, but first appearances are always the most impressive, and one never knows whom one may meet on going to a strange place."

"My dear Captain you have plenty of time to dress. We have to parade the troops to receive his excellency. You never heard of a British Governor general being present at affairs of this sort without troops, my dear sir, and the troops must be paraded first. It would be wretched bad form were they not."

He gravely saluted Captain Brent and departed.

CHAPTER II.

"That donkey makes me feel as though I would like to put a bullet through him," growled the captain, as he walked up and down his rooms. "Confound the governor and general and his troops. Still, there is no use in grumbling about matters."

He stepped to the door, and opening it, looked out into the hallway which ran from front to rear of the one-story building which served as his prison.

Up and down the stone corridor tramped the sentry.

"Stupid work that," said Brent, as he smiled cheerfully at the man. I could give you better employment and four times the wages if you were on my boat, and I was, too," he added with a knowing look.

The man appeared to notice nothing, but he halted opposite to where the pirate stood.

"Why didn't you say so before? It's too late now," and then he marched stolidly on.

B-rrrrrr-brrrrrrr-rub-a-dub-rub-a-d u b, and Brent could not resist the temptation to rush to the window to see the troops as they marched into the hot and dusty square.

Company after company filed out of the barracks and turned into the palace yard with steady tread, flags flying and band playing, for all the world, as Brent thought, as though it was the jolliest occasion that could be imagined.

"Confound them," he said to himself, "how well they do look. And if I hadn't been such an ass as to put myself in the power of this nincumpoop of a governor general, instead of getting him out on board the Badger first, this need never have happened."

The music ceased as he spoke, The line was quickly formed and the adjutant turned the command over to the colonel.

"That tiresome though well-meaning Mercer," muttered Brent, as he leaned against the side of the window, "I suppose that he will be sending for me next. Well, the comedy is about over. Yes, here they come now."

As he spoke, the adjutant, accompanied by a sergeant and 10 or 12 men, marched rapidly across the courtyard to the building in which he was confined.

"Ah, Mr. Adjutant," said Brent gaily, as the latter appeared at his door, "Come for me, I suppose."

"Yes, sir. Sorry it is on such an unpleasant errand, but orders are orders."

"O, that's all right, don't fret a minute. The colonel gave me time to change my clothes, so now I am quite ready if you are. Shall we go?"

"Thank you for making it so easy for me, Captain Brent. I may not have another chance to express to you my regret that you are going to leave us."

"I cannot say that I am, correctly speaking, leaving you," was the reply, with a humorous twinkle in the eye. "I might be said to be about to be taken away!"

CHAPTER III.

Out into the glaring sunshine marched the prisoner and his guard.

"You need not bind me, Mr. Adjutant," he had said before they left the prison house, "I cannot get away if I wish to, and I will give my word that I will make no attempt."

And so he had gone forth with his broad-brimmed felt hat upon his head, and his dark bright eyes looking carelessly to right and left as he walked bravely along.

Out into the center of the sun-dried and glaring square marched the little band. Past all the troops, first from left to right, so that all might view the noted Captain Brent.

"Just as if I was a confounded dancing bear," grumbled he, half aloud, and the men at his side could not suppress a grin.

At last he is at the foot of the gallows, and mounts the steps to the platform, looking down with a high and mighty air on the crowd of soldiery below. A chaplain of the church stands ready to administtr words of comfort to the departing soul.

"Thank you kindly, reverend sir," says Brent, "but as I do not know where I am going, nor do you, it will be impossible for you to give me a proper introduction. Besides' I have never been inside of one of your houses of worship since I was old enough to do as I pleased, and I will not die a hypocrite, nor will I cry mercy for my sins now that it is too late. I thank you kindly, for I know that it is well meant, but it is useless."

The chaplain stepped back somewhat nonplussed at such unexpected logic.

Brent turned and looked down at the adjutant who stood just below him.

"How long have we to wait here?" he asked. "It is dreadfully hot, and I do not see any cause for delay now that I am here!"

"We are waiting for the presence of his excellency the governor general," was the reply, "without whom no ceremony can take place."

"Well, why does he not come? He has had warning enough. I do not think that it is right or proper for one great man, even though he be in authority, to keep another waiting. It does not seem to me courteous, especially under the circumstances."

The soldiers who heard him found it impossible to repress a smile, and even the rigid adjutant twitched about the mouth.

Suddenly a figure in full uniform, with tall white plume in his chapeau, hurried down the steps of the palace, and approached the colonel.

"I beg your pardon, Colonel Mercer."

"Good heavens!" exclaimed the colonel, "doesn't the man know that I cannot receive any official communications except through my adjutant?"

But the personage was not to be put off.

"Colonel Mercer, I regret to inform you that the ceremony cannot go on. The governor general is not in the palace."

"Not in the palace?" cried the colonel, startled out of his usual dignity. "Then where is he?"

"We do not know, sir. His bed has been slept in, but seems to have been left hurriedly, and we cannot find any trace of his excellency!"

"This is most unpleasant," murmured the commanding officer.

"That depends on how you look at it," said Brent to himself.

At this moment six sailors, armed with rifles and escorting an officer in uniform, with a hat for all the world like Brent's appeared at the gateway which led to the palace yard. He carried a paper in his hand and approached the colonel without the slightest hesitation.

CHAPTER IV.

"Colonel Mercer?" he asked, as he halted a few feet from the latter officer.

"I am that person," was the reply of that rather nonplussed individual.

"I am instructed by Governor Fitzmorris to give you this paper, which he said would explain itself. That is, he added, that it would do so as far as he was able to make it.

"He looked up at Captain Brent and gave him an almost imperceptible wink. The demeanor of the prisoner at once changed from a somewhat discontented frame of mind at the lack of haste on the part of his captors to one of absolute indifference to the outcome.

In the meantime Colonel Mercer was reading the paper which had been handed him with a countenance at once indicative of extreme surprise and a certain proportion of fear.

"This is evidently genuine," he said in a somewhat shaky voice, as he handed it to the officer with the white-plumed chapeau, who was the lord chamberlain.

The latter took the document and quickly ran it over, surprise growing more and more plain in his face as he proceeded.

"O, this is terrible!" he murmured. "Most unfortunate error. You will of course release the prisoner at once with all the necessary apologies, Colonel Mercer."

"My province does not go beyond releasing him, Sir William. The apology must come from either you or his excellency the governor general. I simply constitute the military guard." He smiled triumphantly at the other as he took the paper. Then proceeding to the scaffold and mounting it he said to Captain Brent:

"My dear sir, there appears to have been some very unfortunate error committed in taking you into custody. For that, I am thankful to say, I am not responsible. My painful duty is now over, and I have the pleasant one of reading you the following communication from his excellency Lord George Fitzmorris, governor general of the island."

"Regretting that he cannot be present at the hanging?" asked Brent with a sarcastic smile.

"There will be no hanging to-day," replied Colonel Mercer.

"Postponed on account of the weather? Isn't it hot enough for you?" demanded Brent, who was now master made by the soldier.

"Ah, to be sure, I beg your pardon. Is this an official document you have?"

"Yes. It is from his excellency."

"And you expect me to understand it. But never mind, you would not see the funny side of that remark without a detailed explanation! Go ahead, proceed, fire away, old man!" He leaned against the upright of the gallows in a nonchalant manner and took a cigar from his pocket.

Colonel Mercer put on his glasses and read as follows:

On board the Badger,
January 13, 1900.

Colonel W. T. Mercer, A. D. C., commanding 111th regt of foot:

"One moment, colonel," interrupted Captain Brent. "On board the what?"

"On board the Badger," was the reply.

"And what is the Badger?" asked the ex-prisoner, with a curious look in his eye.

"Well," said the officer hesitating, "it is one of our new vessels. I might say it was—"

"A dispatch boat," broke in Sir William, who was never at loss where a lie was needed in a hurry, having been trained in the diplomatic service from early years. "Perhaps, to be more correct, his excellency's private pleasure yacht."

"Ah, thank you, I understand now," and the captain proceeded to light his cigar and puff rings at the colonel as he read:

"Through some grievous error, committed in entire ignorance of the circumstances, Captain John Brent has been arrested and condemned to death under the impression that he is guilty of having committed the crime of piracy upon the high seas, as well as having smuggled contrabrand goods into this island. I find that it is not Captain John Brent that has done this, but Captain Jonathan Brent, who is, I am informed, quite a different person. (It is necessary to add that all this information was received by his excellency with the barrel of a regulation navy revolver pointed across the cabin table of the Badger, and the very determined face of the first officer of that vessel directly behind it.)

"I therefore direct," continued the paper, "that you do immediately upon receipt of this, set him at liberty and provide him with a suitable escort to the dock, where he will take boat for this vessel. Fitzmorris."

He folded the paper carefully and turned to the captain.

"Your are at liberty, sir and it will give me much pleasure to escort you to your destination with my regiment."

"Thank you, colonel; this is very good of you, and I must admit that it is a much pleasanter way of spending the morning than I had anticipated."

CHAPTER V.

"Very good of you. I am sure. Sir William, be good enough to order his excellency's carriage for the captain. It is entirely too hot for you to attempt to walk, my dear sir."

"Well, as you press it, perhaps I will, Sir William, I shall be pleased to have your company. Colonel, I regret that I know that your position at the head of your regiment precludes my having the pleasure of your company on the way down, but I shall see you at the dock upon our arrival:"

He bowed politely to the soldier, and taking his seat in the state carriage, which had now appeared, drove off to take up his position in rear of the gallant 1111th foot.

On the arrival at the dock he stepped lightly from the vehicle and turning to the lord chamberlain, said:

"I will now bid you farewell, and thank you for your very agreeable company. Colonel Mercer, I bid you farewell also, though I trust that we shall meet again. I quite realize that this very handsome escort which you have tendered me would not have been forthcoming had things been otherwise," and laughing somewhat sarcastically at the discomfitted officer, he walked gaily down the steps and into the waiting boat.

CHAPTER VI.

Arrived on board the Badger, a fine topsail schooner-rigged steamer, about 350 feet long and very fast, Captain Brent found the governor general pacing up and down the after deck awaiting his coming with impatience.

"Ah, my dear sir," he said as he walked quickly forward to meet the sailor, "I am delighted to see you again."

"I have no doubt of it," was the reply, "especially as you are well aware of the fact that had I not appeared you would have suffered exactly the same penalty as I did."

"Ah, but, captain—"

"Well, governor, we will let bygones be bygones."

"That is very good of you, and now if you will be good enough to send me ashore I shall be very much obliged to you."

"Ashore! You? I think not! You are to go on a cruise with me, dear man!"

"A cruise with you! But it is quite impossible you know! What would become of my government?"

"You are the government; and I can tell you one thing that I know from my own experience, and that is that there will be fewer executions than there have been for a long time, for they cannot have one while you are away."

"But really—"

"Now, don't keep 'butting' me, as though you were a goat. You go with me, and if you will kindly look at the shore, you will see that we are already going to sea. Here is the receiving ship now, and we shall soon be by the point. Come with me to my cabin; but wait a moment, I have not heard how you happened to come here so opportunely.

"One of your officers, that one over there, came with a number of men some time in the night after I was sleeping soundly, and roused me from bed, telling me to dress quietly and follow them."

"O, that is Murchamp! He always did have a rather curious sense of humor, but he is not at all a bad fellow at heart.

"Possibly not, but he has a most abrupt way about him. I must say. He woke me from asound sleep, as I have with him. When I made some remonstrance he made use of a most offensive expression, told me to 'stow my gab, or he'd see that my windpipe was cut.

"Rather forcible, I will admit, but perhaps called for."

"I cannot see why. "I simply told him that I was not accustomed to being disturbed in that manner and I never dressed without my valet."

"Ah, indeed!"

"Yes and then remarked in the most abrupt way, that if I couldn't dress myself, that one of his men would act as a nurse, or I could go on board the ship as I was. When I made further remonstrance he used the forcible expression which I have already mentioned.

"It a pity," said the captain, in an absent-minded way "that it is the rainy season still."

"Why so?" asked the Governor-General, whose curiosity always got the better of his discretion.

"Because you might possibly dry up were it not so," replied the other, as he gazed mournfully out over the sea, shimmering in the tropic sun.

"Really, Captain Brent," said the governor, "are you not rather rude?"

"Rude? I rude?" exclaimed the smuggler. "You are in luck that I am nothing more than rude. If I were the first-class pirate which you people in these islands have made me out to be I should really be bloodthirsty, violent, to say nothing of being chock full of profanity; whereas you seldom hear me say anything stronger than 'you be hanged!"

"Well really," said the other, with an uncomfortable sensation about the throat.

"O, I don't mean what you mean!" was the cheerful reply. "I'm not at all up to my business, or by this time you plank. In our country we have planked shad, which is very good indeed, and I don't really see why planked governor general would not be just as good. I know that the sharks would like it. I don't suppose that you see the funny side of that at all. No," he continued, with a sigh. "I am a degenerate, accordside of that at all. No," he continued wear more or less good looking clothes, though of course I must keep up the picturesue to a certain extent, but I'm no pirate, that is, not the real article, I will own up to a certain success as a smuggler, but as far as piracy goes, you beat me easy."

"I a pirate! Come, come, what do you mean?"

"What do I mean? Why everyone knows that while ostensibly you give up half of your salary, that you more than make up the difference in commis-

Fitzmorris looked very much embarassed, but said nothing.

The governor felt that under the circumstances it would not be best to show any disapproval of the captain's rather liberal views, so he merely nodded in acquiescence.

"And now for my reason for getting you here," continued Brent. "You have in your possession part of a map of the Island of Fernandos; I have the other half."

"You have!" exclaimed the governor

ing to see you on the subject when yo people were so officious as to arrest me, and had it not been for Marchamp's brilliant idea of kidnapping you we should both of us have been deprived of a large fortune."

"But I was not aware that there was so very large a sum."

"The letter which accompanied my portion of the map, which, by the way, came from my greatgrandfather, who was in your navy as a very young man—"

"Mine also," interjected the governor.

"I know it; that is how I came to be aware of the fact that you had the other half. Your greatgrandfather and mine were midshipmen aboard the British 90-gun ship-of-the-line Formidable, Rodney's flagship in these waters, in 1872. How they came across this map I do not know, but I have suspicions that as young lads of that date they were not over-particular as to what they took from a native. Their elders were not, and why should the boys not afollow their example?"

"Quite so, quite so. My piece of the map came down with my grandfather's effects, and simply had a larger piece of paper attached to it, which read: 'Do not part with this. Some day it will be of great value.' "

"It is curious that your greatgrandfather was not so careful as mine, but mine was Scotch and yours was English—thah may account for the difference."

"It may. But if I may ask, what does it amount to?"

"Amount to? Have you that piece with you? But of course you have, now I think of it."

CHAPTER VII.

"Come," continued Brent, after administering this shot. "let us go to my cabin. I have something to say to you in private."

As the governor entered the cabin behind Brent, he became aware of the presence of a beautiful girl, who rose from the table at which she was writing when they appeared.

"Gov. Fitzmorris, this is my daughter, Madeleine. Madeleine, this is the governor general of Montego, who is going to take a cruise with us."

"I had no idea that there were any ladies aboard?" stammered his excellency, very much overcome with surprise.

"The day is yet young, governor, and my daughter is not an early riser, so you would hardly have seen her in the short time that you have been aboard. I do not always take her with me, but as this is somewhat a voyage of discovery, unattended with any danger that I anticipate at present, and as she begged to come, I felt that I had no good reason to refuse."

"Charmed as I am sure," murmured the governor, quite overcome by the well-dressed, self-possessed young woman, who stood looking at him with a half smile.

"And now, Madeleine, if you will excuse us, I have something particular to say to his excellency in private."

"Certainly, papa. I shall be delighted to get some air. I shall see you later, Governor Fitzmorris," and with a dazzling smile and a slight courtesy she walked past him and up the companion stairs.

"A charming young woman!" exclaimed Fitzmorris as she left.

"Yes, yes," was the absent minded reply. "Looks like her mother, I believe."

"You believe? I do not quite follow you. Do you not know?"

"No to tell you the truth, I do not. I have been married four times and I cannot for the life of me remember to which one this daughter belongs. She is the only child that I have and I spoil her most cheerfully. But I cannot quite place her mother. My life, you see, has been rather exciting and varied and whether this girl was the daughter of the wife that lived in New Orleans, or one that was in Valparaiso, I should not dare to say."

"But you know how old she is, and you know when your wife died?"

"Ah, if I did know, but I am not at all sure that they are all dead!"

"All are! Why, man, do you mean to say that you had more than one at a time?"

"Why, of course! Have you not heard the saying that a sailor has a wife in every port. I am a great believer in keeping up the truthfulness of those old proverbs, which are so fast growing into disuse, so I made up my mind when quite a young man that I would try and live up to the precepts of such as I could and I commenced with that one. I have always, even with my roving habits, had a great desire for the pleasures of a home life, in fact the longing is so irresistible at times that I have t ohave them and it was much more convenient to have four homes to go to as one might be miles or more to one. You see my point?"

"Yes, I never parted with it after it was given me by my father. Those were his commands."

"Very well; here is my portion. Put yours into that torn space and see how neatly it fits."

"It does indeed!"

"There, you see is the longitude sixty-six degree twenty-one minutes W, latitude twelve degrees thirteen minutes N. It is plain sailing for us now." He rose and stepping to the side of the cabin,

"But is it worth it?"

"Tell Mr. Marchamp to make the course east by south, one-quarter south," he said, as a man reported at the door.

contents

it contained.

To my descendants:

When two parts of a map of the West Indies, one in the possession of Midshipman George Edward Fitzmorris, of the Majesty George the IIId's navy, serving under Admiral Lord Rodney, in the year of Grace 1782, on board the flagship "Formidable," and of which the undersigned is also midshipman, and holds the other part of said map, are put together, then will be found the exact position of the island of Fernandos. On the southwestern end of this island there is a Spanish fort. Off from this fort in a line with the western side, distant about 300 yards and lying in about six fathoms of water, is the Spanish Galleon "La Nostra Maria de Trinidado." This vessel contains more than seven millions in gold and silver, which is stored under the after deck directly beneath the floor of the state cabin. By following the line indicated, direct from the western side of the fort, till the gun on the southwestern paraphet is in range with the old tower on the hill behind the town, you should be directly over the center of the galleon, which lies bow on to the shore. It is well to note that the bottom is constantly changing at this part of the island, owing to the storms at certain seasons, and hat what is six fahoms now, may be 10 or 20 by the time that this paper is used.

"This map was the property of a Spanish prisoner, who said that he was of noble birth and related to some English family, the name of which he would inherit his wealth and title if certain papers should ever come to light, which we judged were on the s[illegible]ken galleon, but do not know for sure.

'John Lennox Brent,
'Midshipman on the Formidable.

"February, 1782."

"But I do not care to go on any such foolish expedition as this," said Fitzmorris, querulously.

"Foolish! There is nothing foolish about it. It is a sure thing. Think what a splendid provision it will make for your widow."

"But I have no widow!" exclaimed the governor general, hastily.

"No, no, certainly not!" replied the other quickly, and then he added with a pleasant smile:

"But you will have one, if you do not do as I wish that you should."

"But I have no wife!" exclaimed the governor in desperation.

"O, that is easily remedied in this climate," said Brent. "There are hundreds of ladies if you have no objection to color, who would be more than delighted to be your wife or widow, if the occasion necessitated."

"I suppose that I must agree to your proposition," said the governor with a sigh. "I am not much used to this sort of business."

He realized however, that he did need the money, as he was deeply in debt and had a title to keep up, which his half salary, even though it was made up as Brent had said, by fees and commissions, was entirely inadequate to begin to cover.

"That is proper and as it should be," said the captain with a smile. "It would have been exceedingly disagreeable for me to have a hanging incident aboard, with you as the principal tragedian, so to speak, had you refused."

(TO BE CONTINUED TUESDAY.)

No, Ne'er Can Thy Home be Mine.

(Published by Request.)

He.
I have told thee how sweet the roses are,
In a home beyond the sea,
Where the dark-eyed maid with her sweet guitar
Sits under the orange tree.
Then fly! oh, fly from this isle of storms!
Where all that is fair must pine,
To a sky more blue, and a sun more warm;
Henceforth let my home be thine.

She.
I have heard thee tell of a sky more blue,
And a sun more warm than this,
And I've sometimes thought if the tale be true,
To dwell in that clime were bliss;
But ah; when I gaze on my tranquil cot,
Where the clematis boughs, entwine,
The land of the stranger tempts me not,
No, ne'er can thy home be mine.

He.
I'll sing to thee if with me thou'lt rove,
The songs of the olden time,
And thou'lt not compare my ardent love,
With the love of this colder clime,
Thou'lt scorn the fruits of thy mountain home,
Beholding the purple vine,
Then come to the land of my birth, oh! come!
Henceforth let my home be thine.

She.
Alas, it is plain, my mountain home,
Must ever be scorned by thee,
And may I not fear that a time will come,
When thou wilt have scorn for me;
But ah! there is one who loves me here,
Whose voice if less sweet than thine,
To my simple taste is far more dear;
No, ne'er can thy home be mine.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1902, OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY OF TORONTO, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

President, HON. GEO. A. COX; Vice-President, J. J. Kenny; Secretary, C. C. FOSTER; Principal Office, 22 WELLINGTON STREET., EAST TORONTO; General Agent in Virginia, JULIUS STRAUS; Residence, RICHMOND, VA.; Organized or Incorporated, AUGUST, 1851; Commenced Business, AUGUST, 1851.

ASSETS.

Loans on mortgage (duly recorded and being the first liens on the fee simple) upon which not more than one year's interest is due			$ 20,000 00

BONDS AND STOCKS OWNED ABSOLUTELY BY THE COMPANY.

	Par Value.	Market Value.	
United States 2 per cent. reg. bonds	$ 210,000 00	$ 228,375 00	
Dominion of Canada stock 4 per cent	65,350 00	66,003 50	
Georgia State bonds, 3½ per cent	10,000 00	11,000 00	
City of Columbus, O., bonds, 4½ per cent	50,000 00	53,750 00	
City of Toledo, O., bonds, 4 per cent	50,000 00	56,750 00	
City of Richmond, Va., bonds, 4 per cent	42,000 00	43,470 00	
City of Portland, Ore., bonds, 5 per cent	80,000 00	84,800 00	
City of Portland, Ore., bonds, 6 per cent	5,000 00	6,287 50	
City of New York, Corporate stock, 3½ per cent	141,000 00	148,402 50	
City of London, Ont., Debentures, 4 per cent	40,000 00	40,724 00	
City of Montreal, Que., Debentures, 4 per cent	46,000 00	48,405 00	
City of Kingston, Ont., Debentures, 4½ per cent	21,300 00	23,538 50	
City of Kingston, Ont., 4 per cent	26,700 00	27,400 95	
City of Winnipeg, Man., Debentures, 4 per cent	14,000 00	14,110 00	
City of Winnipeg, Man., Debentures, 4 per cent	16,000 00	16,200 00	
City of Winnipeg, Man., Debentures, 5 per cent	10,000 00	10,750 00	
Town of Cobourg, Debentures, 4 per cent	25,000 00	25,000 00	
Town of Walkerville, Debentures, 4½ per cent	38,000 00	38,000 00	
County of Simcoe, Debentures, 4 per cent	16,172 44	16,738 48	
Province of Manitoba, Debentures, 4 per cent	60,000 00	63,660 00	
Rochester, N. Y. Rwy. Co., bonds, 5 per cent	20,000 00	22,400 00	
Chi., Mil. & St. Paul Rwy. bonds, 4 per cent	8,000 00	8,020 00	
B. & O. Rwy. Co., bonds, 3½ per cent	60,000 00	56,400 00	
B. & O. Rwy. Co., bonds, 4 per cent	50,000 00	48,250 00	
B. & O. Rwy. Co., bonds, 4 per cent	50,000 00	50,750 00	
Canadian Northern Railway Co., bonds, 4 per cent	155,000 00	153,450 00	
Kingston & Pembroke Rwy. bonds, 3 per cent	50,000 00	44,500 00	
Manitoba & Southeastern Rwy. Co., bonds, 4 per cent	97,832 00	101,871 27	
Canadian Bank of Commerce stock	40,000 00	64,800 00	
Dominion Savings & Invest. Co., stock	15,000 00	10,500 00	
Canada Per. & West. Can. Mort. Corp. stock	10,020 00	23,704 80	
Central Canada Loan & Sav. Co., stock	20,000 00	27,200 00	
Toronto Loan & Savings Co., Debentures, 4 per cent	72,500 00	72,500 00	
Total par and market value carried out at market value	$1,574,274 44	$1,658,268 50	$1,658,268
Cash in the company's principal office			108
Cash belonging to the company in bank			174,145
Gross premiums (as written in the policies) in course of collection, not more than three months due			400,200
Bills receivable, not matured, taken for fire, marine and inland risks			20,700
Aggregate amount of all assets of the company, stated at their actual value			$2,372,701

LIABILITIES.

Gross claims for adjusted and unpaid losses due and to become due	$28,011 06	
Gross losses in process of adjustment, or in suspense, including all reported and supposed losses	85,830 40	
Losses resisted, including interest, costs and other expenses thereon	6,138 13	
Net amount of unpaid losses		120,080
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired fire risks running one year or less from date of policy, including interest		

Aggregate amount of all liabilities, including paid up capital stock, and net surplus			$2,872,701 88

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

	Fire.	Marine and Inland.	
Gross premiums and bills unpaid at close of last year	$ 256,302 60	$105,855 84	
Net collected	$ 256,302 60	$105,855 84	
Gross premiums on risks written and renewed during the year	2,736,354 73	521,695 56	
Total	$2,992,657 33	$627,551 40	
Deduct gross premiums and bills in course of collection at this date	438,907 48	81,182 33	
Entire premiums collected during the year	$2,553,749 85	$546,369 07	
Deduct reinsurance, rebate, abatement and return premiums	734,692 95	82,852 93	
Net cash actually received for premiums	$1,819,056 90	$463,516 14	$2,282,573 04
Received for interest on mortgages; received for interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans and from all other sources			68,485 66
Aggrgate amount of receipts actually received during the year in cash			$2,351,058 70

DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

	Fire.	Marine and Inland.	
Gross amount actually paid for losses (including $148,267.48 losses occurring in previous years)	$1,337,763.44	$350,904 22	
Deduct all amounts actually received for salvage (whether on losses of the last or of previous years) and all amounts actually received for reinsurance in other companies. Total deduction	64,727 89	22,181 67	
Net amount paid during the year for losses	$1,273,035 55	$328,832 55	$1,601,868 10
Paid for commission or brokerage			499,160 84
Paid for salaries, fees, or other charges of officers, clerks, agents and all other employes			87,120 00
Paid for State and local taxes in this and other States			63,677 84
All other payments and expenditures			140,544 33
Aggregate amount of actual disbursements during the year in cash			$2,392,370 61

BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING THE YEAR.

	Fire.	Marine and Inland.	Aggregate.
Risks written	$2,896,476 00	$40,614 00	$2,937,090 00
Premiums received (gross)	43,578 20	543 28	44,121 48
Losses paid	31,749 84	267 00	32,016 84
Losses incurred	26,874 01	1,467 00	28,341 01

(Signed.) J. J. KENNY, Vice-President.
(Signed.) C. C. FOSTER, Secretary.

Dominion of Canada; Province of Ontario; County of York—ss:
Sworn to January 23, 1903, before W. B. RAYMOND, Notary Public.

JULIUS STRAUS & SON, Agents.

1013 East Main Street.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1902, OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE INSURANCE COMPANY OF RICHMOND, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

President, GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN, Vice-President and Secretary, ROBERT LECKY, JR.; Principal Office, RICHMOND, VA.; Organised or Incorporated, 1865; Commenced Business, 1866.

CAPITAL.

Amount of capital stock subscribed	$200,000 00
Amount of capital paid up in cash	200,000 00

ASSETS.

Value of real estate owned by the company	$ 65,950 06
Loans on mortgage (duly recorded and being the first liens on the fee simple) upon which not more than one years' interest is due	82,084 24
Interest due on all said mortgage loans, $13.39; interest accrued thereon, $320.10	333 49

BONDS AND STOCKS OWNED ABSOLUTELY BY THE COMPANY.

	Par Value	Market Value.	
U. S. Government bonds, 1907, 4 p. c.	$ 50,000 00	$ 55,000 00	
Virginia Century bonds, 3 p. c.	136,000 00	134,640 00	
State of Virginia bonds, 3 p. c.	25,000 00	25,511 50	
University of Virginia bonds, 5 p. c.	5,000 00	5,250 00	
Richmond City, Va., bonds, 4 p. c.	8,900 00	9,345 00	
Richmond City, Va., bonds, 5 p. c.	500 00	500 00	
Alexandria City, Va., bonds, 3.65 p. c.	6,000 00	5,880 00	
Norfolk City, Va., bonds, 4 p. c.	15,000 00	15,750 00	
Danville City, Va., bonds, 4 p. c.	10,000 00	10,500 00	
South Boston (Town) Va., bonds	500 00	500 00	
State Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Va., stock	12,500 00	20,375 00	
First National Bank, Richmond, Va., stock	8,700 00	17,835 00	
Union Bank, Richmond, stock	2,450 00	8,115 83	
National Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Va., stock	3,000 00	3,900 00	
City Bank, Richmond, Va., stock	6,675 00	8,811 00	
Total par and market value (carried out at market value)	$291,125 00	$321,913 33	$321,913 33

COLLATERAL LOANS.

	Par Value.	Market Value.	Amount Loaned Thereon.	
German-American Banking and Building Co.	$1,000 00	$1,000 00	$ 800 00	
Farmville & Powhatan Rwy. bonds	3,000 00	3,000 00	2,013 66	
Total par and market value and amount loaned thereon	$4,000 00	$4,000 00	$2,813 66	$ 2,813 66
Cash in the company's principal office				5,142 44
Cash belonging to the company in bank				12,845 40
Interest due and accrued on bonds not included in market value				5,236 29
Gross premiums (as written in the policies) in course of collection, not more than three months due				84,929 84
Bills receivable, not matured, taken for fire, marine and inland risks (General, $311.73; Premium notes, $529.01)				840 74
Rents due and accrued, $30.20; due from other companies for reinsurance on losses already paid (name companies); Furniture and Fixtures, $1,500; Book Premiums, $3,684 26				5,220 46
Aggregate amount of all assets of the company, stated at their actual value				$537,309 53

LIABILITIES.

Gross claims for adjusted and unpaid losses due and to become due	$12,191 88	
Gross losses in process of adjustment or in suspense, including all reported and supposed losses	33,705 08	
Losses resisted, including interest, costs and other expenses thereon	2,500 00	
Total gross amount of claim for losses	$48,396 96	
Deduct reinsurance thereon	7,790 65	
Net amount of unpaid losses		$ 40,606 31
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired fire risks running one year or less from date of policy, including interest, premiums on perpetual fire risks, $274,357.12; unearned premiums (50 per cent)	$137,178 56	
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired fire risks running more than one year from date of policy, $141,837.75; unearned premiums (pro rata)	74,430 63	
Total unearned premiums as computed above		211,609 19
Cash dividends to stockholders remaining unpaid		221 75
Commissions, brokerage and other charges due and to become due to agents and brokers, on premiums paid and in course of collection, $14,563.08; reinsurance, $4,881.66		19,444 74
Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and net surplus		$271,881 99
Joint stock capital actually paid up in cash		200,000 00
Surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities		65,427 54
Aggregate amount of all liabilities including paid-up capital stock and net surplus		$537,309 53

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

	Fire.	
Gross premiums and bills unpaid at close of last year	$ 63,060 40	
Net collected	63,060 40	
Gross premiums on risks written and renewed during the year	540,628 60	
Total	$603,689 00	
Deduct gross premiums and bills in course of collection at this date	84,929 84	
Entire premiums collected during the year	$518,759 66	
Deduct reinsurance, rebate, abatement and return premiums	129,222 52	
Net cash actually received for premiums (carried out)		$389,537 14
Received for interest on mortgages		1,762 54
Received for interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans and from all other sources		11,003 50
Income received from all other sources—viz.: Rents		4,512 75
Aggregate amount of receipts actually received during the year in cash		$406,815 93

DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

Gross amount actually paid for losses (including $33,671.58 losses occurring in previous years)	$221,775 31	
Deduct all amounts received for salvage and reinsurance in other companies	45,661 59	
Net amount paid during the year for losses		$176,113 72
Cash dividends actually paid stockholders during the year		12,000 00
Paid for commission or brokerage		82,440 12
Paid for salaries, fees or other charges of officers, clerks, agents and all other employes		24,425 10
Paid for State and local taxes in this and other States		5,317 15
All other payments and expenditures		25,046 24
Aggregate amount of actual disbursements during the year in cash		$325,342 33

BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING THE YEAR.

	Fire.
Risks written	$3,407,120 00
Premiums received (gross)	130,080 98
Losses paid	79,006 17
Losses incurred	80,122 21

(Signed.) GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN, President.
(Signed.) ROBERT LECKY, JR., Secretary.

State of Virginia; City of Richmond—ss:
Sworn to January 22, 1903, before W. A. CRENSHAW, Notary Public.

HOME OFFICE,

NORTHEAST CORNER OF NINTH AND MAIN STREETS.

GEO. L. CHRISTIAN, President,
ROBT. LECKY, JR., Vice-Pres & Secy.
CHAS. K. WILLIS, Treasurer.

SOLICITORS.

A. W. GARBER,
L. F. MASON,
A. E. HEINRICH,
A. F. HULCHER,
W. F. RICHARDSON.

AGENTS.

W. A. Crenshaw,
T. L. Alfriend & Son,
D. N. Walker & Co.,
A. L. Pleasants,
B. C. Wherry, & Sons,
Realty Bond & Trust Co,
Williamson Talley,
Chapin & Hume,
Montague & Co.,
W. W. Hardwicke,
Capitol Savings Bank,
W. C. Claiborne.