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Exit Tony Blount

by Sydney Parkman
CHAPTER VII
Continued

The Kupangers were all mustered in the waist, chattering excitedly and staring at the boat, and as the doctor lowered himself gingerly down on deck again from the sheer-pole, the captain bailed their serang.

"Stand by to jump aboard with a line, Joe!" he shouted, and the little man snatched up a coil of heaving line from the life rail and poised himself on the low bulwark with a hand on the backstay.

The boat was just off the port bow now — once more on the starboard tack — and they could all see the prone figure in a dirty white suit lying face downwards in the stern sheets.

The Merry Maid slid up astern, blanketing the boat's sails with her hull and with a deft touch of the helm the captain laid her dead alongside.

Joe jumped lightly down on to the stern bench and a moment later the line was made fast forward and the whale was being towed alongside.

The doctor scrambled down into her nimbly, and while the serang proceeded to lower her sails, he bent over the still figure in the stern sheets, and turned the man's body over on to its back.

As soon as the boat was made fast, the captain relinquished the helm to one of the Kupangers, and running forward, stood by the rail and gazed down upon the brown headed face which the doctor had turned up to the light.

"He's a goner, ain't he, doc?" he asked in a low voice.

Doctor Durand looked up at him.

"No; he is still alive," he said in a little more thought. "Can you arrange to have him lifted aboard? He had better go straight down to my cabin."

"Not on your life! He can have my bunk!" the captain asserted promptly. "Here, Billy-be-dashed! Hop down an' give Joe a hand with him!"

Within another couple of minutes the man had been gently lifted up on deck and two Kupangers were carrying the limp body aft to the companion-way.

"It's just exposure an' thirst, I suppose, ain't it, doc?" the captain asked as he helped his passenger back over the side.

The other nodded.

"I imagine so," he agreed. "There has also been a head wound though, I shall know more about it when I have made a proper examination. But how does he come to be here at all?"

"That's easy," the captain told him. "Didn't you see the name? This is one O' the Mauwai's boats. Funny we should have been talkin' about her half an hour ago. But how he come to be by himself, I can't think."

The doctor stopped short and stared at him.

"But the Mauwai was reported missing before we left Brisbane!" he protested.

"I know," the captain agreed grimly. "This cove'll have a yarn an' a half to spin if you can pull him round all right!"

But there he was wrong. To be continued.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of
ERNEST WALTON BULMAN
who passed away
April 12th, 1952.

Inserted by Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of
MRS. DOUGLAS CANTELO
Pinette,
who died April 10th, 1951.

Inserted by Husband and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of William A. Alley, who departed this life April 12th, 1949.

Since you've gone first and we remain,
To walk the road alone,
We live in memory's garden dear,
With happy days we've known,
We hear your voice; we see your smile,
Though blindly we may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
Still buoy's us on with hope.

Ever Remembered by His Wife and Son Charles.

BURGESS BEDTIME

Continued from page 10

didn't fly up, how in the world do you think I got up there?" replied Little Lone Chick.

"But none of us can fly yet!" cried an envious sister. "Who taught you to use your wings?"

"Jimmy Skunk," peeped Little Lone Chick, her bright eyes twinkling. "Anyway, if he didn't teach me, he made me fly, and flying is great fun. And it's the easiest thing. All you do is keep your wings going fast."

"But how do you turn? How do you keep from bumping into things?" asked another.

"This was too much for Little Lone Chick. You see, all she had done was fly up on that bough

and fly down again. It suddenly came to her that there was a lot more to flying than she had thought.

"You'll all learn in due time," declared Mother Grouse. "Your sister is a little bit ahead of the rest of you because she had to fly or be caught. But she still has a lot to learn about flying, just as all of you have."

From the start Little Lone Chick had been the smallest and the smartest of all the family. Now she had been the first to be out in the Great World all by herself, and she found her brothers and sisters both admiring and envious. As for the small Grouse herself, she was only too glad to be back with mother and the family. Joining them had been the very happiest moment in all her short life. There was no doubt about it.

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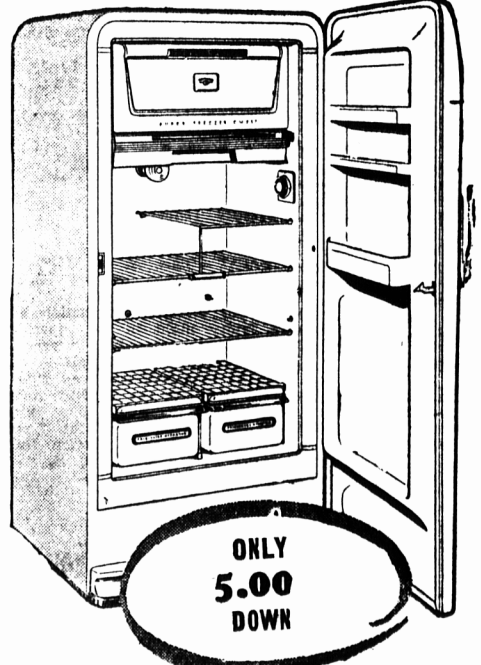
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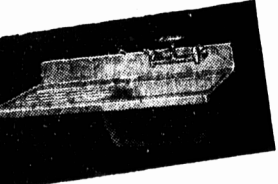
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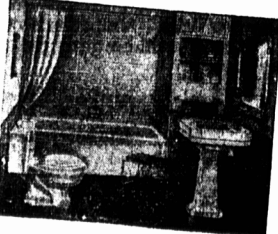
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