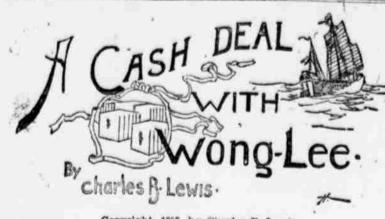
The Home Reading Circle



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PART I. The American brig "Huntress," of which I was first mate, had been sold to an English trading firm in the port of Saigon, Cochin China, and I was out of a berth, as was the case with ten or twelve able seamen who had formed her crew. We were still in a group on the wharf, taking a last look at the bonny craft, when a man whom anybody could have recognized as a sea captain, came briskly along and halted to say:

"I heard of this crew only an hour ago, and I'm ready to sign you all on."

"For what sort of a run?" I asked. "We'll settle that later on. Let the men go to a boarding house, and you come with me. Now, boys, I've got a voyage which will pay you big wages, but it's no place to talk here. mate will give you particulars this af-iternoon. Keep mum and don't get drunk. Away you go. Now, then Mr. -Mr.-

"Medwin," I said. "Well, Mr. Medwin, come along and hear what I have to say. An hour ago I would have sold out for a dollar; now I'm feeling ready for anything. What are your men?"

"All Americans." "That's good! My name is Raynor-Captain John Raynor-and I'm a Yan-kee myself, though I've been out in this cussed country till I'm half-heathen. Gad, sir, but I was in luck to come across you; I never wanted a crew of good men so bad in my life. This is the place-walk in."

He led the way into an office in one end of a big warehouse. A small screw steamer was moored at the wharf opposite the door, and further up the slip was a small bark. On the warehouse was a sign bearing the name of "Perkins & Gage," and I knew the firm to be Americans who did a large business in Chinese products. Captain Ray-nor handed down a box of cigars and a bottle of wine, flung his hat on the floor and hung up his coat, and when his cigar was alight, he humbly

"You know where Sarawak is "Yes--in Borneo."

"Correct, but for the last three days I've been wishing it was in the other place. The firms of Perkins & Gage and Brown & Phillips want to establish branches at Sarawak, and each is to forward \$25,000 in silver. I'm to have charge of the craft which carries

"Well, that's an easy job," I said. "Is it? Just wait a minute. Did you ver hear of Wong-Lee 20

"He's the Chinese pirate." "Just so, and the boldest as well as the cutest devil who ever sailed a junk or cut a white man's throat. That's my troube-Wong-Lee, 'He's got spies in every port clear to the end of the Yellow sea, and there's no doubt he stands in with many Chinese officials. He's got the news that this money is going to Sarawak."

"Well, you've got a steamer here to carry it and run away from his old

"Hang it, man!" cried the captain, as he brought his fist down on the table, 'you don't see the point! When this steamer came in three days ago, to all her crew desterted her but the white engineers. The story about the money leaked out somehow, and the fellows were afraid of Wong-Lee. No doubt he's got spies right in the ware houses." "Why not ship the money on the bark there?" I asked.

"That's what I propose to do now, but couldn't think of it before, be-



"WE'VE GOT TO BE DEVILISH SLY.

cause I had no crew to depend on We've got to be devilish sty, however, and the chances are even up that Wong-Lee gets on to our game."

That afternoon the twelve of us from the "Huntress" signed on for a voyage to Sarawak and return, with posttive orders that no man drink a drop or liquor or open his mouth regarding our port of destination. I was given the berth of chief mate, and, accomparied by one of the men, went aboard the bark, which was called the "Gull."

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CUTICUBA SOAP, and a single application of Cornecas (cintment), the great skin cure The only speedy and economical treatment for itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, and plumply humors of the skin, scalp, and blood.

BABY BLEMISHES PROTECTED AND SOAP. by

She was used for trading along the coast and among the islands, and a neater craft no sailor would care to be atoard of. The other ten men were hidden away until wanted, and the next day we began to ship a crew for a voyage to Corea and return. This was the first move in this game to blind Wong-Lee. The second was to ship a crew for the steamer and give out that she was bound for Formosa. There was yet a third game to be played. The boxes in which the silver was stored each held \$2,000. Twenty-

sails in sight from our decks at that time. There was immediate excite-men among the prisoners, and pretty soon the leader, who was one of the three we believed to be pirates, sent word aft that he wished to speak to the ed he said he was sure the junk astern was commanded by a relative of his who hailed from the Catwick islands, and who would receive the prisoners on board. He was given a glass and told to make sure, and after taking a long look he reported that he was positive of the junk's identity. That was all we wanted to know. He had recognized the pirate junk, and it was now plain to us that Wong-Lee had spotted our game and was after our dollars. It would be a good time to have it out with him at noonday and with friendly crafts in sight, and the prisoners were sent below, the muskets loaded, and we brought the bark to the wind to walt for the junk. She was about five miles astern, and our sudden and unexpected movement seemed to confuse her for a time. She at first shortened sail, but realizing that this would be looked upon as suspicious, she shook out the reefs and came down to windward of us and hoisted a signal that she desired to speak. I was in the main rigging watching her with a glass. When she was three miles astern her decks seemed to be crowded with men. Ten minutes later all but about a dozen had disappeared below. I saw coils of rope flung down to litter the decks, and as she brought up half a mile away he crew pulled and hauled like a lot of land lubbers. was stored each held \$2,000. Twentyfive extra boxes were made and filled look around," said Captain Raynor

HE WAS SURE THAT THE JUNK ASTERN WAS COMMANDED BY

stowed away in the lazarette under the cabin, while the boxes of sand were carried aboard the steamer in broad daylight. On the third day both the steamer and the bark were ready to leave. Both crafts had shipped shorthanded crews, and with a purpose in view. We killed time from mid-after-noon till 10 o'clock at night. Then the steamer cast off and headed toward the north. Two hours later Captain Raynor was ready to put to sea. Our men came aboard one by one during the evening and had been smuggled into the cabin. We had on deck six Chinese satiors, not one of whom were able seamen, and they were floundering load the boxes and head for Sarawak. about and growling at our being shorthanded, when the ten Americans walked out of the cabin and there was a change in the programme. It would not do to send these fellows ashore in a boat, and we did not want them underfoot. It was therefore decided to a thing we might have to answer for in court later on, but Captain Raynor took the bull by the horns, and it transpired that he never did a more lucky

> "We may have thrown dust in the eyes of Wong-Lee, or we may have missed it," he explained: "If we happen to encounter him, we don't want these coundrels against us as well. Three of them have such hang-dog looks that we may suspect them of anything." While I had been shipping the crew the captain had seen to arming the He had put aboard a dozen muskets, as many cutlasses, plenty of cartridges and two double-barreled American shotguns. Even if he could have bought cannon, there was no one aboard who knew anything of gunery. Counting the cook and steward, who were Malays and haters of the Chinese, there were fifteen of us in the rew, and we felt we ought to be able to give a fair account of ourselves if laid aboard. The steamer made a run of 130 miles to the north, and then, as planned beforehand, something wen wrong with her machinery, A day was spent in making repairs, and limped back to Salgon and her crew were discharged. She had seen nothing of Wong-Lee, but there was a good reason for it, as we afterwards ascertained. In spite of all our sharpness and secrecy, the pirate's spies got on to our little game and knew that only the boxes of sand went by the steamer. Wong-Lee knew our destination, the course we must take with the prevailing winds, and he was in the wake of the "Guil" before she had sailed twenty miles. When morning came we had a fine working breeze and crowded the bark along, but there was a junk asterr which held her position so steadily that we knew she was something better than a trader. In a run of four hours we did not gain a foot on her, though the "Gull" would pass the average mer-chant junk with everything double-Wong-Lee had the fastest native craft affoat, and when noon came and our pursuer still maintained her

position, we tried a little experiment in hopes to settle her identity. "It's my opinion that some of the fellows down in the hold are pirates and have sailed with Wong-Lee," said Captain Raynor. "If so, they will know his craft on sight. We'll rouse 'em up for an airing and then watch 'em."

The prisoners' lashing were cast off and they were brought on deck and crowded forward into the bows, and the crew watched them in a furtive a mile away the crew pulled and hauled sulky, and it was perhaps fifteen minutes before they made out the junk astern. There were no less than seven

with wet sand. This was done by employes who could be trusted. After the pirate's small boat was in the midnight, one night, the money boxes water we had made our plan. Five of were carried aboard of the "Gull" and our men were hidden away in the hold. our men were hidden away in the hold, all ffrearms put out of sight, and we his personal description had been circulated, and when a giant of a celestial with a long scar across his right cheek came over our rail from his boat, for silver. we knew we were face to face with one of the most cunning and bloodthirsty pirates of the age. He brought only two men with him, who remained in the boat, and he had no weapons of any sort in sight. He seemed a bit taken aback to find a crew of white men aboard, and so few in number, and he glanced up and down as if ex-

pecting to see a gun or two. "That's old Wong-Lee for a cent!" whispered Captain Raynor, as he moved forward, "and we'll see if a Yankee can't pull the wool over his eyes. If we go below for a talk, do imprison them on the ballast. It was doesn't edge down on us. Keep the you watch the junk and see that she men at work, and let 'em understand that they are not to pay too much attention or seem to suspect anything." (To Be Continued.)

Her Rebellious Eyes.

From the Omaha Bee. A mother trying to get her little daughter of three years old to go to sleep one night, said: "Dora, why don't you try to go to sleep?" I am trying."
she replied. "But you haven't shut your eyes," "Well, can't help it; dey comes unbuttoned."

The average value of iron ore by states is as follows: Alabama, \$1,457,314; Colorardo, \$469,546; Connecticut, Maine and Massachusetts, \$278,888; Delaware

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THE GREATNESS OF THE UNITED STATES

captain. When this license was grant- It is Strongly Emphasized by the Figures Given Below.

UNCLE SAM'S VAST MINERAL WEALTH

Vast Riches That Are Taken from the Ground .- The Increase of Gold. Paying Deposits of Ore Exist in Twenty-two States---Silver and Other Metals -- An Aggregate Mining Product of Nearly One Billion Dollars' Worth a Year.

New York Commercial Advertiser, The United States, with a population of fully 67,000,000, ranks as one of the three most powerful and wealthy na-tions on the surface of the globe. The territory of the United States consists of 3,602,900 square miles; extreme breadth from Quoddy Head in Maine to Cape Flattery, Washington, miles; extreme length, from the fortyninth parallel to the Rio Grande, 1,600 miles. In natural and developed resources the country is growing richer and richer every year, as will be seen by the following condensation of census and concurrent statistics that are being constantly gathered by the gov-

During the last half of the present century the production of gold in the Inited States has assumed enormo proportions. From 1792 to 1834 the yield of gold from the matrix of the mine and surface deposits reached an aggregate value of \$14,000,000, while from 18.4 to 1847 it amounted to \$10,000,000, From 1847 to 1880 the figures rose to \$1,814,-262,050, and the estimate for the past seven years is \$215,937,000. This shows that \$2,054.199,000 have been extracted from the bowels of the earth, with a continual yearly capacity of over \$30,-000,000. Statisticians claim that fully \$300,000,000 of gold has escaped enumeration, so that this country has produced \$2,100,000,000 in gold during the last fifty years.

EXTENSIVE GOLD FIELDS. Gold is found in remunerative depos its in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming. California has led the list, except in 1877, when Nevada produced \$18,000,000. There are today 100,000 gold and silver mining "claims" or locations, but not more than 5,000 are in steady and successful operation, These mines afford employment to 57,-307 persons, at the rate of \$729 per individual, and the value of the mining plants is estimated at \$465,960,566. The average annual production of gold is 1.689.166 fine ounces, value \$34.918.173: of silver, 56,452,025 fine ounces, coining value \$72,988,870 making a total yearly value for both metals of \$107,906,543. cipal silver producing states. During

Colorado and Nevada are the printhe thirteen years from 1877 to 1889 inclusive Colorado produced \$195.182.691. while Nevada's output during the same period was \$131,402,791. The grand total for all the silver states during these thirteen years was \$559,955,292, showing that Colorado and Nevada produced nearly three-fifths of the whole amount. The production of gold 000,000, of which the United States furnished \$35,000,000, or nearly one-third. were to seem to believe any yarn the The value of the world's output of silvisitor thought best to relate. None wer in 1890 was \$158,000,000, of which of us had ever seen Wong-Lee, but this country gave \$75,000,000, or within a fraction of one-half the whole product. Australasia ranks next to the United States for gold and Mexico

OUR IRON ORES.

Iron ores are found in Michigan, Alaama, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, Wisconsin, Tennessee, New Jersey, Georgia, Colorado, Missourl. Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Maryland, Connecticut, Oregon North Carolina, Montana, Utah, West Virginia and Idaho, their relative importance being as named. In 1891 Michigan produced 6,127,001 long tons of red and brown hematite and magnetic ores, Alabama gave 1,986,830 tons of hematite, and Pennsylvania 1,272,828 tons. In the same year New York mined 1,017,216 tons of hematite, magnetite and carbonate ores. The output of these four states was 10,-402,875 tons, that of the remaining twenty-one states being 3,978,203 tons, or a total for all of 14,591,178 tons, valued at \$33,351,978, an average of \$2.30 per ton. In 1870 the total product was 3,031,891 tons; in 1880 the figures were

7,120,362 tons. In 1880 the value of the

pig fron manufactured was \$89,315,690, and Massachusetts, \$278,888; Delaware and Maryland, \$54,469; Georgia and North Carolina, \$317,372; Idaho and Montana, \$140,647; Kentucky, \$133,885; Michigan, \$15,588,369; Minnesota, \$2,464,-419; Missouri, \$470,457; New Jersey \$1,352,599; New Mexico and Utah. \$69,-956; New York, \$3,028,676; Ohio, \$515,148; Oregon and Washington, \$40,389; Pennsylvania, \$3,045,100; Tennessee, \$629,454; Wisconsin, \$1,798.627; Texas, \$16,129; Virginia and West Virginia, \$891.346. In 1850 Pennsylvania ranked first among the iron producing states and held that position until 1889, when it was assumed by Michigan. In 1850 Alabama was eighteenth in importance but has climbed steadily upward until she is now second. The total value of the iron mines, lands, buildings and machinery is placed at \$109,766,199. This description of mining gives employment to 37,707 persons, who receive \$15,458,118, an average \$409,95 per individual. The average cost of production in all the states is \$24,781,658, equal to \$1.71 per ton. As an iron produces

Great Britain, the balance in favor of the latter being only 28,000 tons. COPPER AND OTHER METALS. Copper is found in Arizona, Michi-

the United States ranks equal with

Idaho, Nevada, Utah, California, Wyoming. Vermont and a few of southern states, their relative importance being as named. The total copper product in 1891 was 295,810,076 pounds; value, \$38,455,300; cost of mining, \$12,062,180, there being 8,721 persons employed above and below ground. Lead mining is divided principally into two groups, the Rocky mountain and the Mizsissippi valley sections. The first includes Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah, their annual average production being 287,986,600 pounds, valued at \$4,712,-757,27. The Mississippi valley section comprises Kansas, Missouri and Wisconsin, with an annual average product of 95,553,083 pounds, valued at \$2,-643,459.99. The Rocky mountain region produces annually 287,986,600 pounds of

lead ore, valued at \$4,712,757.27; the Mississippi valley puts out 99.553.083 pounds of lead ore every year, value \$2,643,459.99, and 315,686,975 pounds of zinc ore, value \$2,723,818.05. The aggregate value of the lead and zinc product for both sections is \$10,080,035,21, to which must be added \$350,352 for Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey. Pennsylvania, New Mexico and the southern states, making the value for the aggregate annual product \$10,430,-387.21. This lead and zinc industry emplays 6,131 persons, who receive \$4,228,-

The value of the United States manganese product was \$239,129 in 1891 nickel and cobalt yielded \$134,098; antimony, \$47,000; aluminum, \$6,871,360, and chromatic iron ore, \$30,000. California is a large quicksliver producer. In 1890 there were 95,714 tons of cinnabar ore, of which 92.964 tons were roasted, and furnished 26,464 flasks of quicksliver, valued at \$1,190,500. The total quick-silver lead from 1850 to 1890 was 1,544,-844 flasks, valued at \$69,250,000, and is nearly equal to one-third of the entire

product of the world. Tin is found in the Black Hills, South Dakota, California and Virginia, the yield for 1892 having a value of \$32,-400. Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina produce in phosphates an annual average of 1,231,703 tons, valued at \$7,153.141. In this connection it should be remembered that there are 143,200,000 acres devoted in the United States to the growth of wheat, maize oats, barley, rye and buckwheat, and scientists estimate that these grains take from the soil 2,714,585,472 pounds of phosphoric acid every year, and if we add the large product the total is 6,201,000,000 pounds. So all of this phosphate production is needed for home consumption. The total capital invested in phosphate mines is \$14,366,067 for land, and \$4,705,782 for plants, the average number of employes being 10,000.

THE COAL REGIONS. The United States coal deposits are both anthracite and bituminous in character. The anthracite region embraces Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Colorado and New Mexico, covering 985 square miles.

The average production of anthracite coal is 45,600,487 short tons per annum, on an investment of capital amounting to \$162,035,610, and it requires the labor of 124,310 persons, who receive \$39,365, 217. Adding \$21,857,570 for other expen ses, the cost of production is \$61,212,587. Estimating the coal at \$2.50 per ton it would yield \$114,001,218, showing a yearly profit of \$52,789,121. The bituminous region is divided into seven separate groups, the Triassic, Appalachian, Northern, Central, Western, Rocky Mountain and Pacific coast. The Tri-assic group includes Virginia and North Carolina, with an area of 2,885 square miles. The Appalachian group onsists of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Mary land, Virginia, West Virginia, Eastern

Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama, covering an area of 61,510 square miles. The western group cov-ers Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas and the Indian Territory, with an area of 98,700 square miles. The Rocky Mountain group in-cludes North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, area undefined. The Pacific group embraces Washington, Ore-gon and California, area as yet undefined. The seven bituminous groups annually produce an average of 95,629, 026 short tons, which, at \$2 per ton. gives a value of \$191,258,052. The average amount of wages is \$69,765,711 pe annum, to 175,242 employes, with \$15,-558,482 for other expenses, a total of \$85,324,193, showing a profit of \$105.92 The capital invested in the entire bituminous region is \$180,722,319, and Drexel Lawn Mowers. the annual mining value of the entire

In 1892 the aggregate capital invested in coal mining throughout the United States was \$343,757,929; wages paid, \$109,130,928; total expenses, \$146,536,280 The aggregate production was 141 229 513 tons, from 2,583 regular and 9,969 local mines, covering an area of 1,248,373 acres of land, valued at \$134,854,793. The total number of employes in all the fields was 299,552,

anthracite and bituminous yield is

PETROLEUM.

The production of petroleum has a yearly average of 54,291,180 barrels, with marketable value at tidewater of \$32,-575,188. This gives the annual coal deposits a value of \$338,000,000. The petroleum flow began in 1859, and since then there have been produced over 620,000,000 barrels, the increase to the wealth of the country from this single item being over \$6,000,000,000 in thirty-

four years. The mining industry of the United States also includes building stone, lime, natural gas, cement, salt, mineral waters, potters' clay, mineral paint. borax, gypsum, grindstones, fibrous tale, pyrites, soapstone, asphaltum, precious stones, bromine, corrundum baryites, graphites, millstones, novaculite, marls, flint, flourspar, infusor-ial earth, feldspar, mica, ozocintee, sulphur, asbestes and nitrite. The aggregate value of all these products is It will thus be seen that these mining

ndustries annually produce about \$800. 000,000 as an addition to the wealth of

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