### PORTUGUESE PIRATE

### HOW BARTHOLEMY CAPTURED A HUGE SPANISH MERCHANTMAN.

#### His First Attack Failed-The Little Pirate Then Lay V. ithin Short Range, and With Rifles the Spanish Force Was Reduced and Finally Conquered.

A series of sketches by Frank R. Stockton on "The Buccancers of Our Coast" is one of the features of St. Nicholas Mr. Stockton tells of the adventures of Bartholemy Portuguez, who, with a small crew in a small vessel, captured a huge Spanish merchant-mun in the Caribbean sea. Mr. Stockton The little pirate sailed holdly toward the big Spaniard, and the latter vessel, utterly astonished at the audacity of this attack-for the pirates' flag was fying-lay to, head to the wind, and waited, the gunners standing by their cannon. When the pirates had come near enough to see and understand the size and power of the vessel they bad thought of attacking, they did not. and sail away at the best of their vesrel's speed, but they kept straight on their course, as if they were about to 'all upon a great, unwieldy merchant-man manned by common sailors. Perceiving the foolbardiness of the little vessel, the Spanish commander intermined to give it a lower which

determined to give it a lesson which would teach its captain to understand better the relative power of great vessels and little ones, so as soon as the pirates' vessel was near enough he or-tered a broadside fired upon it. The Spanish ship had a great many people on board. It had a crew of 70 men, and besides these there were some passengers and regular marines, and, knowing that the captain had determined to fire upon the approaching vessel every-body had pathered on deck to see the little pirate ship go down.

but the ten great cannon balls which were shot out at Bartholemy's little craft all missed their aim, and before the guns could be reloaded or the great ship be got around so as to deliver her other broadside the pirate vessel was alongside of her Bartholemy had fired none of his cannon. Such guns were useless against so huge a foe. What he was after was a hand to hand combat on the

deck of the Spanish ship. The pirates were all ready for hot work. They had thrown aside their coats and shirts, as if each of them were going into a prizefight, and with their cutlasses in their hands and their pistols and knives in their belts they scrambled like monkeys up the sides of the great ship. But Spaniards are brave men and good fighters-there were more than twice as many of them as there were of the pirates-and it was not long before the latter found out that they could not capture that vessel by boarding it. So over the side they tumbled as fast as they could go, leaving some of their number dead and wounded behind them. They jumped into their own vessel, and then they put off to a short distance to take breath and get ready for a different kind of fight. The triumphant Spaniards now prepared to get rid of this boatload of half naked wild beasts, which they could easily do if they took better aim with their cannon than they had done before.

But to their amazement they soon found that they could do nothing with the gaus, nor were they able to work their ship so as to get it into position for effectual shots. Bartholemy and his men laid aside their cutlasses and their pistels and took up muskets, with which they were well provided. Their vessel lay within very short range of the Span-ish ship, and whenever a man could be seen through the portholes or showed If in the rigging or anywhere eli where it was necessary to go in order to work the ship he made himself a tar get for the good aim of the pirates. The pirate vessel could move about as it leased, for it required but a few men to manage it, and so it kept out of the way of the Spanish guns, and its best marksmen, crouching close to the deck, fired und fired whenever a Spanish head was to be seen. For five long hours this unequal contest was kept up It might have reminded one of a man with a slender rod and a long, delicate line who had booked a big salmon. The man could not pull in the salmon, but, on the other hand, the salmon could not hart the man, and in the course of time the big fish would be tired out and the man would get out his landing net and scoop him in Now, Bartholemy thought he could scoop in the Spanish vessel. So many of her men had been shot that the two crews would be more nearly equal. he boldly ran his vessel alongside the big ship and agein boarded her. Then there was another great fight on the there was another great fight on the decks. The Spaniards had ceased to be triumphant, but they had become des-perate, and in the furious combat ten of the pirates were killed and four wounded. But the Spaniards fared worse than that. More than half of the men who had not been shot by the pi-rates went down before their cutlasses and unated and it was not hone before. tols, and it was not long before lemy had captured the great ish ship. was a fearful and a costly victory ad gained. A great part of his own were lying dead or helpless on the , and of the Spaniards only 40 were alive, and these, it appears from accounts, must have been nearly all

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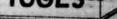
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