

bearing aloft the banners of our loved Balarina."

Craig looked grimly down at the bombastic little man; for he had been able to gather the sense of his grandiloquent oration.

"The durned skunk is goin' to git out of payin' for the battleship," he whispered to Skinner. "And, if we make a fuss, likely as not he'll lock us up and we won't git nothin'." A look of whimsical cunning passed over his face. "I guess I've got a scheme that'll fix 'im. You jest watch!" Then, slouching forward, hands in pockets, Ebenezer responded in his unique brand of Spanish.

"Senor President, you do me proud. I'm goin' to ask just one more thing. I want you to honour my old ship with a visit; so's I kin tell the folks at home that Ramon Torrero has walked her deck."

The president, pulling out his chest, smiled with lofty condescension.

"Gladly I accede to the flattering request of my brave admiral. You may expect me at nine o'clock to-morrow morning."

Promptly on the hour, the eight-oared barge of the Captain of the Port bore to the Cryptic the president and his staff. As he approached the ship the three-inch gun barked a salute. For the last time Craig had rigged himself out in the bathed uniform. He received at the gangway his distinguished guest, at whom he grinned with sly satisfaction. Sliding a torpedo aboard he put it through many complicated evolutions, during which it waltzed and plunged and dove like a playful fish. The show over, and after receiving the wondering congratulations of the visitors, the admiral invited the president into the stony cabin and offered liquid refreshment.

Once more the Illustrious Personage assumed his oratorical pose, and, with much preliminary clearing of his throat, produced a paper and tendered it to Ebenezer.

"I now present to you a certificate which entitles you to claim from my bankers in New York, out of the fund deposited, one hundred and eighty thousand gold dollars as agreed compensation for sinking two of the enemy's cruisers. I would that you, my beloved admiral, like myself, might have had the good fortune to capture a battleship, which would have entitled you to a still more munificent reward. Yet you now receive from me a great sum."

Craig, accepting the document, which gaudy with ribbons and seals, studied through its stilted verbiage. Then he turned fiercely on the president.

"You'll hev to change this 'ere. I want pay for that battleship over there. I druv her on the reef. You owe me a hundred and twenty thousand more, and I calculate to hev it."

Torrero, turning a fiery red, drew himself up haughtily.

"Do you dare to claim that you captured the great ship of war which the deadly fire of my guns forced on shore, and which surrendered to the valour of my soldiers? No! Senor Admiral, I refuse your demand. I have been more than generous."

"What a dirty little scamp it is!" said Ebenezer disgustfully. "It's a disgrace to wear his uniform." Then, changing to Spanish, he continued: "Senor President, I resign my commission. I don't want to be in your service a minute longer."

"It desolates me to accept, but I cannot refuse. Doubtless you desire to return to your own land."

"You're right. I'm going home to God's country. And I'm goin' to take you along with me. It'll do you good to see it. When we get to New York we'll settle our little differences. I s'pose that while you're away somebody else will make himself president. That's your lookout."

Ramon Torrero, looking into the face of Ebenezer, saw there an unalterable resolve. Conscious of his present helplessness he cast about for some escape. Then he had an idea; and surrendered gracefully.

"Senor Admiral, I can deny nothing to one who has rendered such great services to my country. I go on shore at once to cause to be drawn up a new certificate for the sum you claim. This I shall send to you with thanks and good wishes for a prosperous voyage to your own country."

"You'll hev to stay aboard and send one of them gold-laced fellers. If he gets back by sundown with the right paper I'll put you ashore, but if he

don't," added Ebenezer Craig, fixing a nasty eye on the furious man, whose face was convulsed with rage, "I sail for New York to-night and you go along."

Before the sun had dropped behind the western mountains the "ever victorious" president had tumbled, amid the acclamations of his people; and the Cryptic was hull down on the horizon, steering northward.

Examiner's "Gag."

Examination for the priesthood of Tibet is a severe ordeal, in which the candidates are liable to be forcibly prevented from speaking by the examiner.

Herr Tafel, the German explorer, who has just returned from Tibet, says he saw one grotesque ceremony in which the Dalai Lama examined three candidates, who lay flat on their faces before him. A large number of priests were present, and they also prostrated themselves on their faces in token of veneration to the Dalai Lama.

Each candidate raised his head and replied when a question was asked, and then buried his face in the mat again. If a lame reply to a question were given, the Dalai Lama stooped, and placed a hand tightly over the candidate's mouth, so that he might not appear ridiculous to his fellow students.

If the answer were specially bad, the Lama described a circle in the air just above the offender's head, as an expression of his contempt for the candidate.

Herr Tafel obtained the audience of the Dalai Lama at the Tibetan monastery of Gumbum, not far from the Chinese frontier. He is said to be the first European who has ever been face to face with the fugitive Lama.

The Dalai Lama fled from Lhasa on the approach of the Younghusband Mission, and at first found a refuge at Urga, in Northern Mongolia. He was reputed to have left that place last September; and in the following month he passed through Lanchau-fu, on his way, it was said, to Kashgar. He was travelling in great state, in a large sedan chair carried on horses, and with an escort of two hundred lamas.

SORES AND WOUNDS.

ZAM BUK BALM SOOTHES INSTANTLY AND HEALS PROMPTLY.

"As a healing and soothing balm Zam-Buk stands unrivalled," says Mrs. L. Anderson, of 16, Princess-street, Christchurch, N.Z. "About two months ago one of my sons received a nasty wound on one of his feet, and contracted a sore on one of his knees. These I tried to cure by the use of different kinds of ointments and salves—all claiming to be reliable remedies for such complaints—but without success. I then decided to give Zam-Buk Balm a trial, having heard it highly spoken of. I procured a large pot from the chemist, and am pleased to be able to inform you that it surpassed my expectations, and effected a speedy cure. Another son of mine, who has for some time past been suffering from sores on his face, hands, and wrists, brought on by cold, and who has used several advertised remedies to no purpose, also applied Zam-Buk Balm, with the very best and most satisfactory results. Judging from what Zam-Buk has done for my sons, I can conscientiously recommend it as a first-class remedy for sores. It heals quickly, soothes pain, and is safe and certain in its effects. I wish Zam-Buk all the success it deserves."

Rubbing Zam-Buk Balm in is the surest way to rub pain out. It is unequalled as an embrocation for Sore Throat and Chest, Stiff Neck, Chill, cold pains in limbs, joints, or back, and cures Chaps, Eczema, Piles, Ulcers, Festering, Chafing, Cuts, Bruises, and all injured, diseased, and disordered conditions of the skin. Price 1/6, or 3/6 special family pot (containing nearly four times 1/6). From all chemists and stores.

Wood's Great Peppermint Cure won't Cure Your broken legs or hearts. Nor will it act, as a matter of fact, As a recipe for tartar: It won't cure neuralgia, temper, squints, For working men or toffs; But Wood's Great Peppermint Cure will cure Your colds and cure your coughs

Cadbury's Milk Chocolate advertisement featuring an illustration of a child on a bicycle and text describing the product as a concentrated sweetmeat-food.

MARVELLOUS WEST END OFFER HAIR NATURAL BEAUTIFUL TRANSFORMATIONS 30/- advertisement with illustrations of various hairstyles and pricing details.

BOVRIL advertisement featuring a royal coat of arms and the text 'By appointment to His Majesty the King' and 'is guaranteed the pure product of the finest Ox-beef.'

CEREBOS SALT advertisement with a royal coat of arms and text 'By Appointment to H.M. The King and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales' and 'THE HOSPITAL, London, October 13th, 1906, says:—'