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A NEW  
ROBINSON CRUSOE

A New Version of His Life  
and Adventures  
With an Explanatory Note

*by*

GILSON GARDNER



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# A NEW ROBINSON CRUSOE

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

THE real Robinson Crusoe, as everybody knows, was a pious buccaneer named Alexander Selkirk, who, while cruising the South Seas in the armed frigate *Cinque Ports*, had difficulties with his superior officer, Captain Thomas Stradling, and was by him marooned on the Island of Juan Fernandez, a small body of land in the Pacific Ocean in latitude 33 40' and longitude 78 52' west, about 110 leagues from the coast of Chili and 440 to the north of Cape Horn. On this island Selkirk lived, deprived of all human society, for a period of four years and four months, at the end of which time he was rescued by another buccaneer, Captain Woodes Rogers, in His Majesty's privateer, the *Duke of Bristol, Eng.*, with whom Selkirk joined as mate and resumed his trade of buccaneer.

The solitary life on his island, by all accounts, had done Selkirk good; for aside from his own protestations of religion, it is related by Captain

Rogers that the treatment accorded by Selkirk and his men to certain Spanish ladies who were deprived of their personal jewelry as an incident in the raid on Guyaquil was of a character so unusual at the hands of pirates as to elicit wonder as well as pleasure among the gentle victims, so much so that on the return of Selkirk's party from looting operations further up the stream, they were received by the ladies without fear, who "even prepared food for them and a cask of very acceptable wine."

"This excellent trait," says Howell in his life of Selkirk, "can only be attributed to the command religion had obtained over all his actions."

The observances of religion were by no means uncommon among the buccaneers, as appears from the account of Rogers' capture of his most important prize, the Manila ship *Nostra Senora de la Incarnacion Disengani*, rechristened by him the *Bachelor*.

"Before the action began," says Howell, "as there were no spirits on board, a large kettle of chocolate was made and given to the crew in its place, and then they went to prayers. Before they had concluded the enemy commenced their fire."

This was a good fight, "the ships lying yard arm and yard arm, pouring in their broadsides as fast as



they could fire." And when she was taken it was found "she had twenty guns, twenty pateraroes, all of brass, and ninety-three men, whereof nine were killed, ten wounded and a good many blown up and burned with powder."

The pious pirates circumnavigated the globe and finally brought their loot, including the *Bachelor* frigate, valued at 170,000 pounds, safely back to England, where Alexander Selkirk received his share. He was thus able to live the life of a gentleman and after a short visit to his old home in Largo, Fife County, Scotland, he married and went to London, where he lived some ten years.

Selkirk's long residence on the uninhabited island made him, on his arrival in London, an object of interest to the alert news gatherers of that day. Dick Steele interviewed him and wrote a seven-column article, published in the *Englishman* of December 3, 1713. He spells the name Selcraig, which was as it appears in the church records at Largo. Captain Edward Cook also wrote an account of Selkirk's unusual experience in his two-volume, "Voyage to the South Sea and Around the World," published in 1712, as did Captain Woodes Rogers, whose ship was Selkirk's means of rescue. It was not until 1719, four years after Selkirk's return to England,

eight

that Daniel Defoe published his celebrated novel, "The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe."

It is commonly supposed that Defoe never saw Selkirk, but took the hint for this exploit in imaginative writing from current accounts in Cook's and Rogers' voyages and Sir Richard Steele's article in the *Englishman*.

That the contrary is the fact would appear from a manuscript which has recently turned up among the personal effects of the great nephew of Selkirk, the impecunious teacher in the village school at Canonmills, Scotland, mentioned by Howell, who inherited Selkirk's personal belongings, including his staff and his battered flip-can, which accompanied Selkirk on his voyage and during the lonesome years on the uninhabited island. This manuscript purports to be the joint work of Selkirk and Defoe. It is in some respects a very different product from the Crusoe novel. In fact, the difference is so marked that those who first examined it were disposed to set it down as a posthumous product, if not an arrant fraud. The proprietor of the book-stall in Edinburgh, where it was found, says there is no question that it was among papers turned out of an old chest which had reposed many years in the loft of the cottage in Canonmills, where John Selkirk,

the great grand nephew, lived and died. That is as far as authentication goes.

Why the joint manuscript should have been discarded is easy to conjecture. There is in the original (if it be so) a distinct absence of the religious homily which, mingled with the adventure, did much to make the published Crusoe story so acceptable to the public. In this early collaboration the stress is laid on the economic problem of an individual in Selkirk's situation. To him his island world became an economic microcosm wherein he found, reduced to simplest terms, all the elements of the problems which make up the economics of the most elaborate civilization. Every new experience on his island contributed something to his analysis and conclusions, and it is these analyses and conclusions, instead of the religious homiletics, which make up the background of this earlier work.

In 1719 Defoe needed money. His activities as a political pamphleteer had landed him in Newgate. The Tory members of the House of Parliament had caused his works to be burned at the hands of the common hangman, and he, poor man, had been made to stand in the pillory. The publication of Selkirk's economic heresies—for they no doubt would have been so regarded in that more ignor-

ant age—certainly would have added to troubles which were already quite sufficient. So Defoe apparently decided to discard what he may have looked upon as Selkirk's rather tiresome economic views, and by adding adventure and flavor of that brand of piety most likely to be approved, to secure for his literary product a more ready market.

The sale of "Crusoe" justifies Defoe's business judgment, for the proceeds met all immediate needs and furnished a comfortable settlement for the remainder of his life.

GILSON GARDNER.

# LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

BY DANIEL DEFOE AND ALEXANDER SELKIRK

## CHAPTER I

### EXTRACTS FROM CRUSOE'S JOURNAL

*Note:* In some respects this MSS. is identical with the novel as first published. The editor has thought best, therefore, to avoid tedious duplication, giving the story only in briefest outline and setting out at large those comments and conclusions in which this work differs from the one so well known to all.

*September 30, 1659.*

I, POOR, MISERABLE ROBINSON CRUSOE, being shipwrecked during a terrible storm in the offing, came on shore on this dismal, unfortunate island, which I called the Island of Despair; all the rest of the ship's company being drowned, and myself almost dead.

All the rest of that day I spent in afflicting myself at the dismal circumstances I was brought to, namely, I had neither food, house, clothes, weapon

nor place to fly to, and in despair of any relief, saw nothing but death before me, either that I should be devoured by wild beasts, murdered by savages or starved to death for want of food. At the approach of night I slept in a tree for fear of wild creatures, but slept soundly, although it rained all night.

*October 1.*—In the morning I saw to my great surprise the ship had floated with the high tide and was driven on shore again much nearer the island. I hoped if the wind abated I might get on board and get some food and necessaries out of her for my relief. At length the weather permitting I went upon the sand as far as I could and swam on board. As it turned out the quarter was free and all that was in that part was dry; for you may be sure my first work was to search and see what was spoiled and what was free; and first I found that all the ship's provisions were dry and untouched by the water: and being very well disposed to eat I went to the bread room and filled my pockets with biscuits, and ate them as I went about other things.

*From 1st of October to the 24th.*—All these days spent in making several voyages with the raft I had constructed to get all I could out of the ship, which I brought on shore every tide of flood. Much rain

also these days, though with some intervals of fair weather, for it seems this is the rainy season.

In my labors at plundering the ship I first got three seamen's chests which I opened and emptied and lowered on my raft. The first I filled with provisions, namely bread, rice, three Dutch cheeses, five pieces of dried goat's flesh, which we lived much upon, and a little remainder of European corn which had been laid by for some fowls which we brought to sea with us; but the fowls were killed. There had been some barley and wheat together but to my great disappointment I found that the rats had eaten or spoiled it all.

Next I started rummaging for clothes, of which I found enough, but took no more than I wanted for present use, for I had other things which my eye was more upon, as first, tools to work with on shore, and it was after long searching that I found out the carpenter's chest which, indeed, was a very useful prize to me and much more valuable than a shipload of gold would have been at that time. I got it down to my raft, even whole as it was, without losing time to look into it, for I knew in general what it contained.

My next care was for ammunition and arms. There were two very good fowling pieces in the

great cabin and two pistols; these I secured first, with some powder horns and a small bag of shot and two old rusty swords. I knew there were barrels of powder in the ship but knew not where our gunmen had stored them; but with much search I found them, two of them dry and good, the third had taken water; those two I got to the raft with the arms.

With many pains and to my utmost delight this cargo was at last got safely to shore and unloaded on the beach, where with sails and stakes I made all safe and dry.

On subsequent voyages to the ship with my raft I succeeded in bringing away many things which later proved of great use. Among these were a grindstone, three bags full of nails and spikes, a great screw jack, a dozen or two of hatchets. From the gunner's stores I got two iron crows, two barrels of musket balls, a large bag full of small shot and a great roll of sheet lead. Besides these things I took all the men's clothes I could find, a spare fore topsail, hammock and some bedding.

By now I had discovered that the land on which I was cast away was indeed an island, for on the second day, taking the fowling piece and pistols, I traveled for discovery to the top of a hill I had



observed not above a mile from where I was. There I saw my fate, to my great affliction, namely, that I was in an island environed every way with the sea, no land to be seen except some rocks which lay a great way off, and two small islands less than this which lay about three leagues to the west.

I found also that the island was barren and as I saw reason to believe uninhabited, except by wild beasts, of which however I saw none. I saw an abundance of fowls but knowing not their kinds still concluded, and rightly, that many of them were good for food. Also on going ashore, on landing my first raft-load, I saw sitting on a seaman's chest a creature which was like a cat, which sat and looked me full in the face. And when I threw her a biscuit she ate it and made as if she would have had more; but not caring to spare from my store for such a purpose, she presently trotted off.

What to do with myself at night I knew not, nor indeed where to rest, for I was afraid to lie down on the ground, not knowing but some wild beast might devour me, though, as I afterward found, there was no need for such fears.

However, as well as I could I spread one of the sails for a tent and barricaded myself round with the chests and boards that I had brought on shore

and made a kind of hut for those nights' lodging. As for water I had already discovered that there were streams of fresh water in abundance and I had no difficulty in bringing down a fowl, which was all that could be desired.

Still laboring at plundering the ship, for I knew I must avail of the calm and auspicious weather, after I had gathered up all I could move of cables, hawsers, with the sprit sail-yard, the mizen yard and all the iron work I could move, I came upon a locker with drawers in it in which I found two razors, a pair of scissors, with some ten or a dozen of good knives and forks; in another I found about thirty-six pounds value in money, some European coin, some Brazil, some pieces of eight, some gold and some silver.

I smiled to myself at the sight of the money. "Oh, drug!" said I aloud, "What art thou good for? Thou art not worth to me—no, not the taking off the ground. One of those knives is worth all this heap; I have no manner of use for thee; ever remain where thou art and go to the bottom as a creature whose life is not worth saving!"

However, upon second thought I took it away and wrapping all this in a piece of canvas, I began to think of making another raft.

That night I lay in the little tent I had erected on the shore, very secure with all my wealth about me. It blew very hard all night and in the morning when I looked out, behold, no more ship was to be seen!

## CHAPTER II

MY thoughts now were wholly employed about securing myself against either savages, if they should appear, or wild beasts, if any were in the island; and I had many thoughts of the method how to do this and what kind of a dwelling to make—whether I should make a cave in the earth, or a tent upon the earth, and, in short, I resolved upon both, the manner and description of which it may not be improper to give an account of.

I consulted several things in my situation which I found would be proper for me:—First, health and fresh water; secondly, shelter from the heat of the sun; thirdly, security from ravenous creatures, whether man or beast; fourthly, a view to the sea, that if God sent any ship in sight I might not lose any advantage for my deliverance, of which I was not willing to banish all my expectations yet.

In search for a proper place for this, I found a little plain on the side of a rising hill, whose front toward this plain was steep as a house-side, so that nothing could come down upon me from the top;

on the side of this rock there was a hollow place worn a little way in, like the entrance or door of a cave, but there was not really any cave or way into the rock at all.

On the flat of the green just before this hollow place, I resolved to pitch my tent; this plain was not above a hundred yards broad, and about twice as long and lay like a green before my door and at the end of it descended irregularly every way down into the low grounds by the sea. It was on the northwest side of the hill, so that I was sheltered from the heat every day until it came to a west and by south sun, or thereabouts, which in those countries is near setting.

Before I set up my tent I drew half a circle before the hollow place, which took in about ten yards in its diameter from its beginning and ending. In this half circle I pitched two rows of strong stakes, driving them into the ground till they stood very firm, like piles, the biggest end being out of the ground about five feet and a half, and sharpened on the top. The two rows did not stand above six inches from one another. These I laced with cables taken from the ship and braced inside until it was so strong that neither man nor beast could get into or over it. This cost me a great deal of time and

labor, especially to cut the poles in the woods, bring them to the place and drive them into the earth.

And it was while engaged in this work that I began to ponder and to ask myself certain questions, such as Why does man work? Is work a blessing or a curse? And could there be a world in which man might not work? And the only answers which I found at hand were these: That man works to secure his food, or to shelter himself against the elements or against ravenous beasts or other men, as even I now was doing; that the vigor of exercise and the increased circulation of the blood bring about an uplifted physical sense which in a manner resembled the pleasures of intoxication, though it differed from that produced by wine in that there are no ill effects following, but on the contrary a restful relaxation which is quite unknown to those who lead a sedentary life. But as to why all men are not engaged throughout the world in constructing shelters from the elements, as I was doing here, I did not at once perceive.

The entrance to my shelter yard I made to be not by a door but by a short ladder to go over the top, which ladder when I was in I lifted over after me. And so I was completely fenced in and forti-

fied as I thought from all the world and consequently slept secure at night; though it afterward appeared there was no need for all this caution from the enemies that I apprehended danger from.

Into this stockade I brought, with infinite labor, all my riches, my provisions, ammunitions, stores and plunder from the ship and I spread a sail so as to make a tent, which with a tarpaulin I made double and hung a hammock for a bed, and so was in all ways very comfortable.

When I had done this I began to work my way into the rock, and bringing all the earth and stones I dug down, piled them about my fence in the nature of a terrace. And the rock proved to be of a soft texture most easily dug into, so that with the labor of many days I dug out an excellent cave, which served me like a cellar to my house. And here I stowed my most precious things, but not my powder, for the thought came to me during a frightful thunderclap: What if my powder should be ignited! For it was the means for my defense and my food. So thereupon I divided it into almost a hundred small parcels, which I placed in holes in rocks and places which I carefully marked.

And while thus engaged I was busied with the thought of the helplessness of man without some in-

strument of invention and precision in his hand. Without a gun what would I do? Or having fire-arms and no powder, how equally helpless! Fowl there might be all about me, but how could I bring them to hand? Stones I could not hurl with sufficient accuracy to bring them down. For the little store of meat, the dried goat's flesh, I was indebted to other men who had bred or killed the goats. And I set about conjecturing what would happen to me when my ship stores of food were exhausted. Of which I had much of interest later to relate.

In the interval of time when building my fortification and digging the cave I went out once every day with my gun, as well to divert myself as to see if I could kill anything for food and to acquaint myself with what the island produced. The first time I went out I presently discovered that there were goats in the island, which was a great satisfaction to me, and though I found them shy, subtle and swift of foot, I was able in time to get near enough to shoot them. Though I did not know it at the time, I found in later years that the presence of these goats was a happening of pure chance, they being the descendants of a herd brought to the island about an hundred years before by a Spanish pilot who was the discoverer of the island and who



tried to colonize it, but being unable to secure title or the protection of his government, was compelled to leave the place with those he had brought with him.

The first time I came within shooting distance of the goats I brought down a she goat which had a little kid by her which she gave suck to, which grieved me heartily; but when the old one fell the kid stood stock still by her till I came and took her up, and not only so but when I carried the old one with me on my shoulders, the kid followed me quite to my enclosure; so I took it into my enclosure and hoped to bring it up tame, but I had no milk and it could not eat, so I was forced to kill it. These furnished me with food for some time and the happening furnished me with an idea which I later carried out, namely, to lame a young she goat and, having captured her, to tame and breed her. But it was only after I had thought to dig a pit-fall and trap the goats in a place I knew they were soon to go that my plan was carried to success.

Of which I will have more to say at the proper time. For the present there were other things which more pressingly demanded thought and labor.

### CHAPTER III

I HAVE spoken of my habitation as the Island of Despair, and so it seemed those melancholy days when I looked about me and finding all my companions drowned and myself likely to be destroyed by beasts or savages or to die for want of food, saw in the land a place for my imprisonment and in the sea a barrier from all a man most cherishes in this world. But every day as it passed had served in part to allay my fears, and in part to disclose to me some aspects of my surroundings which in my violence of grief I had overlooked. Being on the southerly side of the equator the fall months of October were here spring and soon after my arrival I found nature taking on her most gracious forms. And this matter of the season was favorable to me also because here in the months of July and August the nights are cold so that one wants fire and shelter and occasionally it happens that there are slight touches of the frost and a flurry now and then of snow. But in the spring and summer months my tent was ample shelter and I had

time to prepare and to lay up a few stores for the more stormy days.

And as my mind became more composed and I had eyes to see the beauties which were spread before me I apprehended that the place was filled with graceful charms. So impressed was I with them that I took the trouble to write down in the diary which I had maintained while ink and paper lasted, the following description:

“The woods which cover most of the steepest hills are free from all bushes and underwood and offer an easy passage through every part of them, and the irregularities of the hills and precipices in the northern part of the island necessarily trace by their various combinations a great number of romantic valleys, most of which have a stream of the clearest water running through them, that tumbles into cascades from rock to rock as the bottom of the valleys by the course of the neighboring hills is at any time broken into a sudden sharp descent. Some particular spots occur in these valleys, where the shade and fragrance of the contiguous woods, the loftiness of the overhanging rocks, and the transparency and frequent falls of the neighboring streams present scenes of such elegance and dignity as are but rarely paralleled in any other part

of the globe. It is on this place, perhaps, that the simple productions of unarrested nature may be said to excel all the fictitious descriptions of the most animated imagination."

The above was written some eighteen months after my landing on the island. By that time having food in abundance, a climate healthy and pleasant, producing also by reason of the labor I was constrained to perform a bodily vigor I had before not known, I found under the serene sky and temperate air that my life was like, as it were, a continual feast. I began to take delight in everything about me, being as happy now as I had before been miserable. I ornamented my abode with fragrant branches cut from the spacious wood near which it was situated and in this delicious bower, resting from labor or the chase, fanned with such soft breezes as the poets tell of, I had repose which was equal to the most exquisite sensual pleasures.

But before I arrived at a state of mind to enjoy all these sendings of Providence I had many problems to solve. Notwithstanding all the things I had gathered from the wreck there were a few things whose lack I greatly felt. There was no shovel to dig with or to remove the earth; I also lacked a spade, a pick-axe and needles, pins and

thread. As for linen I had in the beginning some, but soon learned to want that without much difficulty. A fire I produced in the primitive fashion by rubbing together two pieces of wood of sufficient hardness with vigor for a long time, but in the beginning I lacked a place for my fire, a spit and something to pass for an oven in which I might bake a substitute for the bread I had from the ship stores, but which would not last forever.

Meantime to keep track of the days and the months I had set up a large post on the shore where I had landed and making it with another piece in the form of a cross cut in it every day a notch with my knife and every seventh notch was as long again as the rest so that I might not forget the Sabbath from the working days, and I inscribed upon it the 30th of September, 1659, the day I landed on this island. And I divided the months with a still longer notch and each year from the other.

And now I began to apply myself to make such necessary things as I found I most wanted, particularly a chair and a table, for without these things I was not able to enjoy the few comforts I had in this world. I could not write or eat or do several things with so much pleasure without a table.

So I went to work; and here I must needs ob-

serve that as reason is the substance and original of the mathematics, so by stating and squaring everything by reason and by making the most rational judgment of things, every man may be in time master of every mechanical art. I had never handled a tool in my life, and yet in time, by labor, application and contrivance, I found at last that I wanted nothing but I could have made it, after a fashion, especially if I had had tools; however, I made abundance of things without tools, or with simple tools and some with no more tools than an adze or a hatchet, which perhaps were never made that way before, and that with infinite labor. For example, if I wanted a board I had no other way but to cut down a tree, set it on edge before me and hew it flat on either side with my axe till I had brought it to be as thin as a plank and then dub it smooth with my adze. It is true by this method I could make but one board out of a tree; but this I had no remedy for but patience, any more than I had for the prodigious deal of time and labor which it took me to make a plank or board; but my time and labor were of little worth, and so they were as well employed one way as another.

However, I made me a table and a chair, as I observed above, out of short pieces of plank I had

brought from the ship; but when I had wrought out some boards I made large shelves of the breadth of a foot and a half one over the other all along one side of the cave, to lay all my tools, nails and iron work, and, in a word, to separate everything at large in their places, that I might come easily at them. I knocked pieces into the wall of rock to hang my guns and all things that would hang up. So that had my cave been to be seen, it looked like a general magazine of necessary things. And I had everything so ready at my hand that it was a great pleasure to me to see all my goods in such order and especially to see all my stock of necessaries so great.

## CHAPTER IV

WHILE exploring one day with my gun in the southern end of the island I came upon a variety of fruits such as I had seen none of in the part wherein I dwelt and particularly I found melons on the ground and grapes upon the trees; the vines had spread indeed over the trees and the clusters of grapes were just in their prime, very ripe and rich. This was a surprising discovery and I was glad of them, and later I found an excellent use for these grapes and that was to cure or dry them in the sun and keep them as dried grapes or raisins are kept, which I thought would be, as indeed they were, as wholesome and as agreeable to eat, when no grapes might be had. And I found here also an abundance of cocoa trees, oranges and lemons and citron trees, all wild and few bearing any fruit. However, the green limes were very wholesome and mixed with water made a drink which was most refreshing, and later I found trees with ripe lemons on them.

I resolved to lay up a store but on trying to



carry them the long distance to my cave or tent I found when I arrived there that the grapes had bruised and spoiled and of the limes I had but few. And when I returned the next day those I had piled up were spoiled and scattered by some animal, probably the goats, which roamed these parts. So I gathered more of the grapes and this time hung them on the branches of the trees where they would cure in the sun and when I came again after a number of days found them perfectly dried and indeed were excellent good raisins of the sun. So I took them down from the trees and I was very happy that I did so for the rains which followed would have spoiled them and I had lost the best part of my winter food; for I had above two hundred bunches of them.

On the 26th of August of this year I found a large tortoise and later I found there were many on the opposite side of the island; and I found their eggs as well as their flesh a great addition to my diet. The eggs like my meat I broiled as I had no dish in which to stew or to make a broth.

When confined to my tent by the long and copious rains I found employment in attempting if it were possible to make myself a basket, and it proved of advantage to me now that when I was a boy I used

to take great delight in standing at a basket maker's in the town where my father lived to see them make their wickerware, and being as boys are very officious to help and a great observer of the manner how they worked those things, I had by this means so full knowledge of the method of it that I wanted nothing but the materials, which on the island were easily found, certain of the young branches proving as tough as the sallows and willows and osiers of England. And with these I contrived with time and patience to make a great many baskets both to carry earth, or to carry or lay up anything as I had occasion, and though I did not finish them very handsomely yet I made them sufficiently serviceable for my purpose and I had strong, deep baskets to place my corn in instead of sacks when I should come to have any quantity of it.

Now as to this matter of corn I had seen from the start that there would in time be an end of the biscuits taken from the wreck and what to do for bread when they were gone gave me some concern. I am a poor botanist and I had hunted among the growing things of the island for some substitute for bread such as the natives are said to use, but with no success. And it was while deeply pondering what to do that the answer came to me as by the

merest accident. For I have spoken of the little bag of spoiled rice and barley which the rats had gnawed. This, it appears, was the remnants I had shaken out on a spot near my landing place, not realizing that amid the chaff there were a few grains still surviving whole. But one day after the rains had come I came upon new and different blades of green shooting from the ground which I recognized as from my corn and at once I set about to harbor it by all means in my power. I made a hedge about the place to protect it from the goats which I had tamed and were now accustomed to browse about my dwelling, and later on I had a greater danger to overcome, for as the young grain ripened I found the birds gathered about in great numbers ready to save me any trouble in the harvesting thereof. So angered was I at seeing them that I let fly with my gun and brought down three, which I treated after the manner felons are served in England, for I hung them in chains as a warning to their fellows; and to my intense relief the birds were so alarmed that they flew off and abandoned all that side of the island and would not return while my scarecrows so remained. And the first season I got but a peck or so of rice and the same of barley, which I kept and sowed on a larger space which I hedged and

dug up with a wooden shovel which had to do for an iron spade. And the next crop was a total of perhaps five bushels, all of which I kept for seed and the seasons favored for it is possible in this latitude to get two crops the year by sowing in the early part of the rainy months and allowing the crop to ripen, as the dryness and the warmth increase. So with the increase of my store of grain I began to think of how I might prepare it when I should have enough to spare for food. And I was perplexed for I neither knew how to grind nor to make meal of my corn, nor indeed how to clean it and part it; nor, if made into meal how to make bread of it, and if how to make it, I knew not how to bake it. These things being added to my desire of having a good quantity for store, I resolved not to taste any of this crop but to preserve it all for seed against the next season and to employ all my study and hours of working to accomplish this great work of providing myself with corn and bread.

It might be truly said that I now worked for my bread. It is a little wonderful, and what I believe few people have thought much upon, namely the strange multitude of little things necessary in the

providing, procuring, curing, dressing, making and furnishing this one article of bread.

I who was reduced to a mere state of nature found this to be my daily discouragement, and was made more and more sensible of it every hour, even after I got the first handful of seed corn which, as I have said, came up unexpectedly and indeed to my surprise.

First, I had no plow to turn the earth, no spade or shovel to dig it. But this I conquered by making a wooden spade; but this did my work but in a wooden manner, and made the work much harder.

When the seed was sowed I had no harrow but was forced to go over it myself and drag a heavy bough of a tree over it, to scratch the earth as it may be called, rather than rake or harrow it.

When it was growing or grown I have observed already how many things I wanted, to fence it, secure it, mow or reap it, cure or carry it home, thresh, part it from the chaff and save it. Then I wanted a mill to grind it, sieves to dress it, yeast and salt to make it into bread and an oven to bake it in. And all these things I did without, as shall be observed; and yet the corn was an inestimable advantage to me, too.

It was quite by accident that I learned to make a

vessel that would stand the fire—the need of which I have spoken of. I had been fashioning crude vessels and pipkins in clay, in the hope of coming at something which when wrapped with basketry would hold my grain, when I found in the ashes of my fire a piece of the broken clay baked hard and red. This set me to experiment and after various trials in increasing and slackening the heat of a great fire which I built up around my mud-pie vessels, I found that they did not crack or run but came out after many hours as hard burnt as could be desired and one of them perfectly glazed with the running of the sand, my joy was like that of some great artist who sees before him the creation of his genius. Hardly did I have patience to stay till they were cold before I set one upon the fire again with some water in it to boil me some meat which it did admirably well, and with a piece of kid I made some very good broth, even though I lacked the oatmeal.

As for a mill to grind my corn I did not aspire to that but sought out a great block of hard wood, as big as I had strength to move, and this I rounded and formed outside with my axe and hatchet and then with the help of fire and infinite labor made a hollow place in it, after which I made a great heavy

pestle or beater of iron-wood. And this was my mill. And for a sieve I made several small ones out of some calico neck-cloths which were among the seamen's clothes.

And for an oven I made earthen vessels, burnt in the fire two feet wide and nine inches deep and when I wanted to bake I made a great fire upon the hearth which I had paved with some square tiles of my own making and burning also, and when the firewood was burnt pretty much to embers or live coals I drew them forward upon this hearth so as to cover it all over and when the hearth was very hot, sweeping away the embers I set down my loaf and whelming down the earthen pot upon them drew the embers all around the outside to keep in and add to the heat; and thus, as well as in the best oven in the world, I baked my barley loaves, and became in a little time a good pastry cook into the bargain. As for yeast or salt I did not concern myself with them and learned to do well without.

## CHAPTER V

FOR companionship I had these days the dog which had leaped from the ship the first day I visited the wreck, the several goats which I had caught and tamed and which browsed about my tent-cave habitation, and a parrot which also I had knocked down and tamed and which in time learned to speak, namely, to call me by name and to say, "Crusoe, poor old Robinson Crusoe!" Nor should I omit the cats, for the ship's cat came to me one day a few months after I had landed and brought with her a train of kittens which in time again began to multiply to such numbers that they were a nuisance and some had to be killed and others driven off. My dog, who lived to be very old, was always at my side. He never lacked in sympathy or apparent understanding of what I said to him and did all but answer me with words. I talked often to the dog, for in such solitude there is a comfort even in the sound of one's own voice.

My days I arranged after a systematic manner. In the morning generally I went abroad with my



gun to shoot a fowl, a duck or a pigeon; or I ransacked the rocks where their nests were made to secure the young or their eggs. Or I might shoot a young goat or happen on a tortoise, or get fresh grapes, melons or cress, of which there was abundance in the stream. During the heated spell I rested in the shade of my tent during the middle of the day and went abroad again or to my work in the cooler part. In one of the seamen's chests I had found some books, three Bibles and some works on navigation. These I studied and the Bible I began to read with a renewed interest. The bitterness and despair which had filled my soul when first I found myself alone and cast away forever cut off from the companionship of other human beings—this bitterness I say had quite abated and I gave humble thanks that God had been pleased to discover to me even that it was possible I might be more happy in this solitary condition than I should have been in a liberal society, and in all the pleasures of the world.

So in time, in dividing the day for my employments, I began with the reading of the Scriptures, and with this I permitted nothing to interfere. Then coming in from the three hours spent in hunting, there were the labors attendant upon the order-

ing, curing, preserving and cooking what I had killed or caught for my supply. These took up a considerable part of the day, so there was none too much time remaining for the laborious tasks which had to be performed.

About the fourth year of my sojourn on this island my clothes began to decay mightily, so that I began to consider about putting the few rags I had which I called clothes into some order. For I could not bear the thought of being naked, though I was all alone. And there was another and excellent reason for wishing to be covered, for I found by experience that I could not bear the heat so well naked as with some clothes on—nay, the very heat frequently blistered my skin, whereas with a shirt on, or some covering, even though thick, the air itself made some motion and whistling under the shirt, was twofold cooler than without it. No more could I ever bring myself to go out in the heat of the sun without a cap or hat, the heat of the sun beating with such violence as it does in that place would give me the headache presently by darting so directly on my head.

So I fell to tailoring or rather indeed a-botching, for I made most piteous work of it. Lacking needles and thread, I raveled my stockings, which I had

worn, and for needle used a nail which I had sharpened. But soon I gave up trying to mend the rags and turned attention to the skins of various animals I had killed. For these I had preserved stretched out with sticks in the sun, and some were soft and useful. First I made a great cap for my head with the hair on the outside to shut off the rain and this I performed so well that I made a suit of clothes wholly of these skins—that is to say a waistcoat and breeches open at the knees, and both loose, for they were wanted rather to keep me cool than to keep me warm. I must not omit to acknowledge that they were wretchedly made; for if I was a bad carpenter I was a worse tailor; however, they were such as I made a very good shift with, and when I was abroad if it happened to rain, the hair of the waistcoat and cap being outmost, I was kept very dry.

And after this I spent a great deal of my time and pains to make an umbrella. I was indeed in great want of one what with rain and sun. There were many spoiled before I had my way. It was covered with skins, hair upwards, so that it cast off the rain like a tenthouse and kept off the sun so effectively that I could walk out in the hottest of the weather with greater advantage than I could before

in the coolest. And when I had no need of it I could close it and carry it under my arm.

Thus I lived mighty comfortably, my mind being entirely composed by resigning to the will of God and throwing myself wholly upon the disposal of His providence. And when I began to regret the want of conversation, I found a substitute in asking myself all manner of difficult and confusing questions and thereupon setting about answering them—formulating the answer clearly and in conformity with truth and reason. And many problems which before I had not had time to work out to any conclusion I was able thus to solve quite to my own satisfaction, of which I shall at the proper time have more to say.

And my chief task in the fifth year of my residence in these parts, outside the yearly planting and harvesting and the daily hunting, curing, preparing and cooking, was the building of a canoe, which I did after the manner of the natives who hew them out of great logs of some light wood, easily worked and hollowed out by tools and fire. This with much labor was finally completed and by building a canal up to the boat was set afloat. So I was ready to explore the seas in the direction of those lands or

islands which on clear days I had descried to the South, but knew not what they were or if inhabited by man or beasts or savages. But I was curious to know.

## CHAPTER VI

I HAD now brought my state of life to be much easier in itself than it was at first, and much easier to my mind as well as to my body. I frequently sat down to my meat with thankfulness and admired the hand of God's providence, which had thus spread my table in the wilderness.

One reflection was of great use to me, namely, to compare my present condition with what I at first expected it to be—nay, with what it certainly would have been—if the good providence of God had not wonderfully ordered the ship to be cast up near to the shore where I not only could come at her, but could bring what I got out of her to the shore for my relief and comfort; without which I had wanted tools to work, weapons for defense or gunpowder and shot for getting food.

I spent whole hours, I may say whole days, in representing to myself in the most lively colors how I must have acted, if I had gotten nothing out of the ship; how I could not have so much as got my food, except fish and turtles, and that as it was long be-

fore I found any of them I must have perished first—that I should have lived if I had not perished, like a savage—that if I had killed a goat or a fowl by any contrivance, I had no way to flay or open them, or part the flesh from the skin and the bowels or cut it up; but must gnaw it with my teeth and pull it with my claws, like a beast.

And I passed from these reflections to considering what man owes to his fellow-man and how dependent, one upon the other, is every human being in the world. For the tools which I took from the ship, I now bethought me, did not come into being of themselves, but were themselves worked out by the labor of workmen like myself, only knowing more of the arts and crafts. The axe which I used to chop down a tree—to make it men must have dug iron from the earth, others must have smelted the metal from the dross, still others must have jarred it through the tempering process to give it a hardened edge, to say nothing of the fashioning it into shape and fitting it to a suitable helve. And now everything among my possessions from the ship began to take on a new interest and a dignity which before were unknown. An ordinary bit of sailcloth I found to be a quite wonderful contrivance of threaded hemp or cotton regularly interlaced in a way which

I could never hope to imitate. My powder—of what was it composed? Whence came the ingredients? Were they dug, distilled or concocted by some abstruse chemist's formula? How many persons had labored with their hands and brains to produce the little store which I had harbored up for my future needs? And the gun I always carried—again the metal must be dug from the rock below the surface of the earth, it must be smelted and worked with tools which in turn were the creations of still others' work. The levers, bolts and screws which worked the lock and caused the flint to strike the steel—all the contriving and creating were to me reminders of my debt to other men. I had become an artisan, and I hailed my fellow artisans and superiors in the world of artisanry and made them my obeisance. Before I had thought of a knife or a gun as articles one bought, getting money for the purpose as one might; now I thought of them in terms of labor, skill and creative thought—all performed for me, and the which, by all rights, I should return in kind.

Thus I came upon the answer to that question which, at first, had puzzled me: Why does man work? For I perceived that man works to acquire the things he must have if he is to go on living—



food, clothing to protect him from the weather and shelter for his increased protection.

I perceived, moreover, that strictly speaking, man produceth nothing; but God has ordained that the earth shall bear trees and other growing things; and that the verdure and the fruits shall afford support to animals, wild or tame, and to birds of the air, and that all these things are for man for his food. But I perceived that none of these things are acquired by man except by labor, for the tree must be hewn and cut into boards, firewood or other shapes; the fruit must be gathered and oftentimes preserved; grain must be sowed, reaped, ground and made into loaves before it is fit for human food and animals must be captured or killed if wild, or tended and bred if domesticated and, being killed, the flesh must be saved and prepared with intricate care before it becomes man's nourishment. And for the doing of all these things there must be tools, and for the making of the tools there must be labor at mining, welding, moulding, grinding, tempering and a hundred varied operations of which the average person like myself knows nothing. And as tools wear out or are broken there must be others to take their place, so that there are always those engaged in making tools. And as clothes wear out

and are thus consumed there are always those who are working to make clothes; and as houses become outworn, out of repair and antiquated, or become too narrow for growing families, there must be new houses built; so there are those working always at erecting houses, whether of wood, stone or brick, all of which materials must be ravished from the forest, the quarry or the clay-pit. And I began to see that the workers of the world were specialized. For no one man can adequately do the many things needful for the simplest mode of life. In my case this was clearly manifest, for with all my industry I was compelled to dress in skins, and despite my utmost efforts I could not make a needle. If the lightning had struck my small supply I would have been sadly in need of a powder specialist, or if the spring had snapped in the breech-lock of my fowling piece, no thought or industry of mine would have supplied the place of that specialist called a gunsmith.

How helpless, I concluded, is man alone! Favored as I was by a mild and equable climate, blessed in the absence of ravening beasts such as tigers, bears or wolves; finding a veritable garden of edible wild fruits, and a gracious soil and abundant rain for the raising of agricultural products,

not forgetting the goats, turtles, fish and fresh flowing streams—I say that even amid an environment like this, and leaning heavily on the tools which I had from the labor of other men, I was still sheltered in a manner which civilization would regard as almost savage, while my raiment would have brought a crowd at my heels if I were back among my fellow-creatures. Nor did I consider myself remiss; for to have it otherwise I must have been able to spin and weave, to mine and smelt; to make needles and gun-springs and powder; to quarry and perform the work of masons, to shape great beams and transport all over long spaces, all of which I perceived is impossible for man laboring by himself. By collective labor are great things done, and by those who have specialized are the intricate things wrought out.

And in the adventures which happened to me later I saw these things in even a clearer light.

## CHAPTER VII

I HAVE spoken of my efforts to make a boat by digging out a log and shaping it in a way to float well in the water. My first attempt had failed, for that I had chosen a log so great that when I had shaped and hollowed it I was unable to get it to the water by reason of the distance and the weight. My second attempt was made with better forethought and while I found it necessary to dig a canal upward half a mile from the sea to my craft, yet I diligently pursued the task for two years and in the end had the satisfaction of viewing my handiwork floating in my little inlet and ready to be outfitted. I was very anxious to explore about the shores of my island and hoped with it to venture to the mainland if indeed there should prove to be a mainland at not too great a distance. In any case it would, I thought, be the first step in my deliverance. So I fitted up a little mast to my boat and made a sail to it out of one of the pieces of the ship's sails, which lay in store and of which I had a great store by me. Thus fitted I tried the

boat and found she would sail very well. Then I made little lockers and boxes at each end to put provisions, necessaries and ammunition in, to be kept dry, either from rain or the spray of the sea, and a little long hollow space I cut in the inside where I could lay the gun, making a flap to hang down over it to keep it dry. I fixed my umbrella in a step at the stern, like a mast to stand over my head and to keep the beating of the sun off me, like an awning, and thus I every now and then took a little voyage upon the sea, but never went far out, nor far from the little creek; but at last, being eager to view the circumference of my little kingdom, I resolved upon a tour, and accordingly I victualed my ship for the voyage, putting in two dozen of my loaves of barley bread, an earthen pot full of parched rice (a food I ate a great deal of), a good supply of fresh water, half a goat and powder and shot for killing more, and two large watch coats which I had saved from the seamen's chests; these I took, one to lie on and the other to put over me at night.

It was the sixth of November in the sixth year of my reign, or my captivity, which you please, that I set out upon this voyage, and I found it longer than I expected, for while the island was not very large

I found adverse winds the second day and was obliged to make camp and wait for smoother seas. On the following day, having resumed my voyage, I came upon a great ledge of rocks running about two leagues out to sea; some above water and some below it, and beyond this a shoal of sand lying dry half a league or more, so I was obliged to go a great way out to sea to double that point.

My course from there should stand as a warning to all rash and ignorant pilots, for no sooner was I a quarter of a league from the shore than I found myself in a great depth of water and a current like the sluice of a mill. It carried my boat along with such violence that all my efforts could not keep her so much as on the current's edge; but I found it hurried me farther and farther out to sea. There was no wind stirring to help me and all I could do with my paddles signified nothing. So now I began to give myself over for lost. Every moment was carrying me farther from the island, I knew not whither. My craft would not live in anything but most favorable weather and if I had the good fortune to have smooth seas my provisions would last but a brief space and then I must perish of hunger and thirst. Now I looked back on my desolate, solitary island as the most pleasant place in the

world, and all the happiness my heart could wish for was to be there again.

I worked hard till indeed my strength was almost exhausted, and I kept my boat as much as possible to the northward, where I hoped not only to get out of the force of the current but to get into the back flow, or eddy which such a current must somewhere always have. By noon I thought I felt a little breeze in my face springing from the southeast. This cheered my heart a little and especially when an hour later it blew a pretty small gentle gale. By this time I had gotten a frightful distance from the island, and had the least cloud or haze intervened I had been undone, for I had no compass on board and should never have known which way to steer for the island. But the weather remaining clear, I applied myself to getting up my mast again and spread my sail, standing away to the north as much as possible. And I had no sooner done so than I saw by the clearness of the water that some alteration of the current was near; for where the current was so strong the water was foul; but perceiving the water clear, I found the current abate and presently I found to the east, at about half a mile, a breach of the sea upon some rocks. These I found made a breach of the current's stream and while

the main stress of it continued to run southerly the other returned and made a strong eddy which ran back again to the northwest with a very sharp stream.

I was now as one who, having been condemned, had a reprieve. With unspeakable joy I put my boat into the stream of this eddy and the wind also freshening I spread my sail to it, running cheerfully before the wind and with a strong tide or eddy under foot. After about a league the eddy failed and I was left to my sail alone, but the water now was neutral and I kept on steering for the island and by five o'clock in the afternoon I came to shore. At once I fell on my knees and gave God thanks for my deliverance, resolving to lay aside all thought of my deliverance by my boat; and refreshing myself with such things as I had, I brought my boat close to the shore in a little cove I had espied under some trees, and laid me down to sleep, being quite spent with the labor and fatigue of the voyage.

And presently I was aroused by something having touched me and awoke to see before me a man—the first I had beheld in more than six years.

At first I was convinced that this was a dream and that I was still asleep or in a fever. My first impression was one of fear alone, for the unexpect-



edness of the apparition and the long habit of my life alone had made the appearance of an ordinary human being startling to the last extreme. I struggled to my feet and would have fled, but the stranger smiled and, laying hold of me urged me to be calm. Such at least I judged to be the purport of his words which, as I afterward learned, were spoken in Portuguese; but his gestures were reassuring and from his clothing and general appearance I placed him as a man of the sea, like myself. Presently I perceived that there were others and that they had come in a small-sized sailing boat, which now lay at anchor near the shore, and when I had recovered from the fright and shock of this strange awakening, you may imagine my eagerness and joy at seeing again creatures of my kind and once more hearing the human voice. Great was my joy when a group had gathered quickly about me one of them addressed me in English, with a touch of the Yorkshire dialect. At the sound of my native tongue my joy was too great for utterance and I fell upon the Yorkshireman and embraced him, to his great amazement; for they were all regarding me and my strange attire with a curiosity and surprise they made no effort to conceal.

And in reply to my earnest questionings the York-

shireman informed me that they had come from an island not unlike mine which was one of two which lay to the west and south of me some eight leagues and that this was the first time they had ever landed on my island, which indeed to them was a new discovery, for they were members of a colony of political refugees who had taken part in an uprising in Chili and had by the government been exiled and set down on these islands, without boats of sufficient size to make the voyage back to the mainland and with orders never more to return on pain of death. And the colony they told me now numbered some fifty people and they had their women among them and they had learned to live a fairly comfortable life on the two islands—the which were not far distant the one from the other—and they had finally built this small sailing vessel and gone exploring what might be farther to the west. Thus they had come upon my domain and me.

## CHAPTER VIII

THERE were eight in the party which had come in the little sailing boat to my island and I perceived that they carried no firearms, though of knives in their belts they had a-plenty, and I later learned that their captors had purposely left them neither powder nor firearms when they were deposited on their island; and these they had not as yet been able to produce on their own account, though afterward the formula for making powder, together with the necessary nitrolis and free carbon, were discovered. Meantime I figured that with my gun and store of ammunition I had an advantage over them, even though I might be but one to their score. But these thoughts did my visitors great injustice, for never at any time did any but friendly thoughts enter their minds and in the end I was ashamed even to myself that I had momentarily dwelt upon my superior equipment to do them harm. For I found them most friendly in their disposition and very eager to relieve me in what they naturally inferred was a condition of great distress. Several of the boatmen

could speak little English and the Yorkshireman became at once interpreter for the others, who spoke both Portuguese and Spanish. It seems a British ship had gone ashore on the islands and the Yorkshireman was one of three who had been saved and he had now been five years with the Chilean refugees.

I bade the visitors welcome to my island and made myself a guide to show its various features. I brought them to my cave and showed them, not without pride, all the things I had contrived, not forgetting to kill a kid and set before them, and from my store of sun-cured grapes, turtle eggs and barley loaves. In the latter and in the raisins they were greatly interested, for there were no grapes on their islands, nor for some unknown reason, citrons. But the lack of barley was due to the fact that they had been given none for seed by their jailors who, on the contrary, left them only a small quantity of maize, and this they had cultivated for their bread, not without difficulty, however, owing to the character of the islands, for these two other islands were quite different from the one on which I dwelt. When I visited them—as I did shortly as their guest—I concluded that the geologic history of the islands was quite diverse; for while mine

was obviously of volcanic origin, theirs was an older sort of rock, carrying many of the features of the continental rocks, with mineral beds of iron, coal and a trace of the more precious metals. But their islands were less arable. The rocks were bold and hard and the level spaces narrow and difficult of access. But withal I found their settlement quite a picture of contentment. They had built some thirty houses and there were several others scattered at different points about the islands. Every house had a garden belonging to it in which many fruits and vegetables grew luxuriantly. The main island, which they call Mas-a-fuera, is much broken with ravines and gulches, but there is in the midst one main valley sheltered and inviting, where there grew many fruit trees, flowers and sweet herbs. In the midst of the houses there was built a little church, with an inscription, "*La casa de Dias es la juerta del cielo y Se coloco.*"

The dress of the women I found to be of a singular description, and was, they told me, the same as that of the ladies of Chili and Peru. They wore a petticoat reaching only a little below the knee, spread out to a great distance by a hoop at the lower part, leaving their legs entirely exposed, which, however, were covered with drawers. They wore

their hair long, hanging down the back and plaited into forty and sometimes fifty braids. In every house I entered I beheld great numbers of children, and indeed other evidences of prosperity.

My visitors remained with me as my guests for two days, and at the end of that time I sent them away laden down with dried grapes, goat flesh, barley loaves and flour. And they were very anxious that I return with them at once to their islands; but I made excuses to them promising to visit them on their return voyage, as indeed I did with observations which I have already set down.

And here I find it necessary to record a strange thing—namely, my entire change of feeling toward the island which had in the beginning been to me a prison and my way of life which had been to my thought a hardship. Now the island was my home, and my way of life upon it had revealed to me that even solitude hath its pleasures. I had found that there is no such thing as perfect freedom, for man is what God intended him the servant of laws which environment impose on him, requiring regularity of toil, physical and mental, for such laws require of him foresight and thrift like that of the bee to lay up stores against the season when they shall not be at hand, and diligence in devising ways

to protect his life against the elements and those things which are enemies to his life not forgetting sloth and dullness which is a close relative as well as a precursor of death and dissolution. But also I had found that man alone is more nearly free than when man is compassed about by other human beings, for in his every day contact with his fellow creatures man must yield something of his individual whims and bend to those common notions which in time come to be the conventions of society, and later on its laws. So when I analyzed myself I found myself averse to taking up a permanent residence in the colony whence my visitors had come, but I preferred to remain on my own domain interchanging friendship with them and such commodities and service as would tend to make the conditions of life more desirable for all.

And so it was. And from this period I entered on a new experience the relating of which will prove no less interesting, I trust, than the experiences which had led up to this new and strange adventure.

## CHAPTER IX

WITH the coming of these other human beings and the setting up of contact with two more islands my fiscal world was broadened. By fiscal world I refer to the realm of those activities which have to do with the satisfaction of man's needs and wants. For I conceive that there is such a realm just as there is an intellectual realm, or a physical. As in the physical man exercises the faculties of his body, and in the intellectual realm the faculties of his mind, so in the fiscal realm he exercises the fiscal faculties with which he chances to be endowed, producing, owning, trading with his fellows and developing fiscal strength or weakness as the event may determine.

To this conclusion I had come after much thought during the many hours I had devoted to thinking out the problems which my solitary life had imposed on me. Of my solitary fiscal life—that in which I was unaided by my fellow men (except what I had gathered from the wreck) I have spoken. With the coming of other human beings and the enlarging



of these relations there came new problems. Of them and of the answers I resolved I shall speak as my narrative proceeds.

On their return to my island which was as soon as the weather and the state of the sea would permit, for they durst not adventure much in so small a boat—my neighbor colonists brought with them a suit of clothes for me made of home-spun wool woven by hand on looms which certain of their women operated with skill, together with stockings knit likewise by the women—all of wool, sheared from sheep which they had raised and spun on distaffs operated in their homes. Likewise there was linen underwear, the need of which I had greatly felt after the shirts from the ship had worn out. This, too, was made of flax raised and shredded on their island; for they had for a long time been cut off from any communication with the mainland and had only that which their skill and industry had enabled them to create.

And my first thought was one of shame that I had not been able to make cloth, spinning it from the hair of my goats. But in this I blamed myself without cause, for on inquiry I learned that several in the colony had been weaver artisans and knew the trade of weaving before ever they were set

down in this remote spot. So that when the necessity was upon them, they had an experience to draw upon and knew how to build a loom; and the women had known how to spin and to knit, and did not have to invent the art as I should have had to do. They, in short, were specialists, and were useful in contributing of their specialty to the community's needs, while others furnished them with the products of the soil or the trophies of the chase.

Gladly, therefore, did I accept cloth from the weavers, in exchange for the flour and raisins I had sent them, and I perceived that both had profited by the exchange for they were equally glad to have my offerings.

This, then, I concluded, is the function of exchange that man may have a greater variety of useful articles; for different localities of the earth produce different things; different men have diverse skill and special knowledge, and when each follows his specialty or adapts himself to the opportunities held forth by nature, the total product is made more diverse and of greater volume, and when exchange has distributed to each his fair share there results a larger measure of happiness and comfort than there would have been had each attempted as I

had previously, and of necessity, tried to do, that is to do all things for himself.

This time I sent my visitors home laden with quantities of ripe lemons, grapes, and some goat meat, and they in turn promised to bring with them on their next trip tools and a couple of their best carpenters with enough helpers to build a cottage with sides of dressed boards, a thatched roof and windows and a door fitted to open or shut. And this they did. And as I watched their labor I reasoned thus:

I, working by myself, was not able to build a house. The beams were too heavy for my single strength. Two men coöperating can lift a weight impossible to one and six men with poles and levers can accomplish wonders. It is because the men coöperate—because a number are working together toward a common end—that important things are done.

And further I observed that one man appeared to know more about the way the structure should be built than the others, and this one led. The others did as he directed, and they called him master builder. But it was his superiority in knowing how that made the others follow and him to give the orders. There are those who know and those

who coöperate and are willing to take orders, and this results in bringing the labor of many hands and the thought of many minds to the accomplishment of a common purpose.

Thus I had discovered in my fiscal world specialization, coöperation, and organization—three important methods employed by man to do man's work, to do it better and in greater volume, whereas by exchange the blessings are distributed most widely.

My friends brought tools and sawed the logs into boards, and thus two men in a saw-pit in a few hours did the work and did it better than I had taken days to do with my axe. And in a week they worked out rafters and joists which would have taken me a lifetime to hew. Indeed in ten days they had builded me a house which would have done credit to any village, the roof being thatched with reed-grass—a simple thing I had not had the wit to think about—and the windows having shutters which in wind or storm could be closed, and at one end a chimney with a walled-in space at the side where hot cinders could be placed to heat the space for baking.

And I paid them for their labor on my house with one of my spare muskets and five pounds of

powder with balls to match. And this more than satisfied them, so that they were eager to be of further service to me.

Now I perceived that in one respect I was at a disadvantage as compared with my neighbors in the other islands, namely, they had cattle and likewise barnyard fowl while I had only goats and the wild fowl which I must bring down with my gun. So on the next occasion I proposed that they exchange with me a bullock and a heifer with two hens and a cockerel for another musket and an equal quantity of ammunition as I had given for my house. To this they readily assented—a trade which to me was excellent since it gave me in time a herd of cattle for the upland pastures which on my island were rich and spacious with abundant milk for butter and cheese and beeves for food. And my dooryard soon swarmed with fowl, which kept me in good supply of eggs while there was always a bird ready for the stew pot or the skewer.

But to the other parties the exchange was not so profitable, for the powder was soon expended and until more could be secured the musket was purely ornamental.

Such, however, is the nature of exchange. Judgment as well as chance oft enters in, and the for-

tunes of the trader rise or fall as he is favored in the exercise of the one or the fortunate bestowal of the other.

I soon felt that I was destined to become a person of wealth; and how this worked out will subsequently appear.

## CHAPTER X

PERCEIVING the great desire of my neighbors to have more of my rice and barley, I was not slow to plant more land in these crops.

Here, said I, is the working of that fiscal law about which I have heard, the law of supply and demand. Demand is made up of people's wants; supply is made up of the ability and willingness to satisfy those wants. These colonists want rice and barley; I have these commodities in larger measure than I need; I am in a position therefore to secure for myself things which I desire by supplying their demands for rice and barley. I shall secure new and better tools, help in breaking the soil for my crop, with further wool and linen.

In all these respects my anticipations were fulfilled. But one day I received a lesson in the contrary working of this self-same principle; for I had loaded my canoe for a trading voyage with the other islands and had carried to the second island some of the many hatchets which I have spoken of as among the things rescued from the ship—these

and a quantity of turtle eggs which I that day gathered. Imagine then my shame and disappointment when I found that the colonists on the second island had opened a small iron mine in the mountains, and set up a smelter and were themselves makers of axes and hatchets and other tools much finer than those I brought; so that they laughed at these, while, as for the turtle eggs, these abounded also on their island to such a degree that the children were wont to collect them for the barnyard fowls, but few were eaten by the people.

Thus there was no demand for my cargo which I was obliged to take back with me. True there was a poor beggar among them who by physical defects was unable to work who wanted a hatchet and even the turtle eggs, but as he had nothing to give in exchange his wants did not constitute a demand in the sense which the world of business knows that term; for demand is made up of both a want and an ability to grant something of value in exchange.

So by my failure to suit supply to demand I had lost my labor and my time; but the loss had profited me in the way of knowledge, for I now perceived that when men live as neighbors and trade with one another it behooves them to study to make



their service fit the needs and wants of their fellows—in other words to suit supply to demand.

Moreover, if one man does not do this it is apt to happen that another will; for the second man will see the opportunity that the first has overlooked. And likewise in the world of trade neither party to the exchange is able to be overbearing in his demands on the other, because a second or a third will come along and by more reasonable offer will take the exchange from the first man.

This I perceived when I went to the iron workers' island to exchange barley-flour for a hammer. I came upon three smiths all with hammers just alike. The first demanded for his hammer a bushel of barley-flour, the second offered his hammer for half a bushel and the third said he would yield his for a peck. From him I secured the hammer.

And I perceived here the working of the law of competition. For the three competed one with another and when the first was moved by greed to demand an unfair amount for his hammer (for he could make it in a day and it would take me a week to even grind so much flour) the others interposed, and one took the trade on a reasonable basis, showing how competition is a check on greed.

I saw the working of this principle on their side

of the exchange; but, alas, for the blindness of man to his own shortcomings, I had presently to see a different out-working of the same principle; for I perceived one workman to have a saw which was of most excellent workmanship and which I at once coveted. But perceiving their lack of barley meal I insisted that he let me have the saw for half a peck of flour. I was about to get the saw when the man who had sold me the hammer stepped up and offered a whole peck for the saw; which the owner at once accepted and I was left disappointed and humiliated. For at once I realized that in this case it was my greed which competition had checked; for I had not offered a fair value for the saw.

And I thought much about the working of competition, and I concluded that in general competition tends to equalize the values of articles exchanged—such values being measured in terms of the labor necessary to produce the article and bring it to the place where the exchange takes place.

But I perceived that there are times when there can be no competition to be a check on greed, as when I possessed the only musket to be had and traded it for a fine new house. And at the beginning of my intercourse with the colonists I possessed the only source of powder and therefore

might come very near to naming my own terms for an exchange for this for their commodities. But I could not quite do this for my powder was a commodity they could live without. And I could not refrain from some idle speculations as to how great would have been my fiscal strength if this had been a commodity they must have to live, and I with the only supply in the world. Then indeed would I have been their king and they all my subjects with their lives a forfeit except as I let them live.

Even as things were the competition among them as buyers of my barley meal soon placed me in a position of great fiscal strength. For their maize was not nourishing and was productive of a common skin disease which in some cases proved fatal, so that they were all exceedingly anxious to get some of my barley meal, so that I soon had them bringing me stores of all the things they produced and offering labor of any form in exchange for small quantities of my flour.

## CHAPTER XI

THUS I learned that competition is an influence which generally works on the two sides of an exchange; and that the effect of competition, so at work, is to prevent the demand of an unreasonable amount of return for what is given—to make, indeed, the exchange more fair.

But what takes place where there is an absence of competition on one side of an exchange is seen in the undue amounts I was enabled to demand because I alone possessed the rice and barley which my neighbors needed. For had there been others near at hand having rice or barley, or who could be reached even at a distance, the colonists would have gone to them rather than render me a bolt of cloth for a peck of flour, and other articles in proportion. But there was none to compete with me in the sale of these two needed foods, my fiscal strength was overweening.

And what takes place when there is present on the other side of the exchange an excess amount of competition I presently beheld also, for one day

there came two men to buy rice. Neither had any commodity to offer in exchange but both offered to work for me at any employment I might put them at in payment for a small quantity of grain. And I bethought me of the weeds which were in my rice field, which I had intended to pull out, and I proposed to the first man that he work at weeding for a day for a quart of rice. To this he readily agreed, but when I informed the second man that I did not need his labor, having weeds for but one pair of hands, he showed much concern, and thereupon informed me that he had eaten nothing since the previous noonday meal and therefore would do the same amount of weeding for half a quart of rice.

To this I readily assented, though I perceived that a hungry man competes unduly against one who is not so moved.

And on the next day came a woman and offered to do the weeding for less than the man, and after her a neighbor with five children all of whom she offered to weed all day for a quart of rice which at once did away with the possibility that any men might be employed in this labor.

Here, said I, is an instance of undue competition weakening one side of the exchange. My bar-

gain with the first man was none too beneficial to him; but he could not compete with the hungry man, nor the latter with the woman, nor the latter with the children. What they might have secured from me was reduced by their under bidding one against the other; whereas what I was enabled to extort from them was increased. In the absence of competition on my side of the exchange, I was blessed with an ever increasing fiscal strength, while on their side the growing eagerness of competitors reduced their fiscal strength to a point where they would gladly toil all their time for enough food to enable them to go on toiling.

These people, I reasoned, are weak in a fiscal sense (for they were mostly all of sturdy bodies) because they have not a store of the necessities laid by. It is because of their immediate needs that I am able to take an unfair quantity in exchange. It is because they are unable to do without the thing I have that they lack fiscal strength.

And I concluded that one element in fiscal strength is the ability to do without what is offered in exchange.

I was able to do without practically all the things possessed by my neighbors. I had managed to live quite comfortably before they came, doing all things

for myself, and I could do so again. Hence I was not compelled to trade with them at all but might keep all my grain for myself.

Thus I arrived at the conclusion that the fiscal strength of one side or the other of a possible exchange increases as competition decreases and decreases as competition increases; also that it increases in proportion to man's ability to do without what is offered in exchange, and decreases in proportion to his inability to do without what is so offered.

Moreover, I observed that in an exchange between the person of fiscal strength and the person of fiscal weakness there is no element of fairness entering in, but the strong ever hath the better of the bargain.

And in thus considering the matter of fiscal strength I found I had come upon the answer to a matter which had always puzzled me; that is to say, why it is that all the hard work of the world is done for the least rewards; for those who dig and delve are not those who live in great houses and are served dainty food by retinues of servitors, but on the contrary this is the reward of those whose services are lightest while those who do those things most necessary to the continued ongoing of the

world—who mine our coal, dig our iron and till the soil, as well as those who build houses and carry merchandise and prepare our food and clothes for us—these dwell most humbly and often have but little of that which they produce.

And it now occurred to me that these do the work more because they must than because they will. There are present among them the elements of fiscal weakness. They compete right eagerly among themselves and they are unable to do without the things offered in exchange, namely, food, shelter, warmth and a place to be. They have no store of these laid up, nor a store of money with which to buy them even for a short period, while holding out for better terms in the exchange; but on the contrary they must hearken to their immediate needs, and must exchange their labor or the product of their labor on any terms the person of superior fiscal strength shall say. So they are forever losing a part of the fair share which should be theirs by the exchange; whereas the few gather to themselves an ever increasing store with an ever increasing power to lord it over the weaklings of the world.

Up to this time I had thought always of exchange as fair and had heard always that all bargains,



whether for barter or wages, were purely and fairly made. But now I saw that exchanges are fair only when made by persons of fairly equal strength, which seldom is the case; for most exchanges are between persons of greatly differing degrees of fiscal strength.

But this is a discovery which one would not herald generally to the world, for all the laws and customs even in our most civilized parts are based on a contrary theory, namely, that exchanges are all free and fair and that each party to the exchange is free to accept or decline the terms—which, as we have seen, is opposed to the facts.

Such a theory is highly beneficial to the few who have fiscal strength, and it is not to their advantage to have the laws overthrown, as they would be if the many who do not benefit by this theory were to come to understand why they are opposed.

But with matters of this sort I had no concern except as it gave me satisfaction to learn the answer to a puzzling question; for I was profiting by the opportunity which had come my way and believed I saw how I should in time place myself in a position of great ease.

## CHAPTER XII

MANY changes were wrought during the first year following the coming of my neighbors. I find set down in my diary this entry:

I have to-day broken three acres of land for my crops. This is an enormous increase over what has been my custom to break for my own uses, but I perceive that I shall need much grain for trading with the other islanders; for their need is great. I sell my barley only as flour, for I perceive that the less they have for seed to grow crops on their island the better will be my market. For if I sell them seed grain and they cultivate this crop on their lands—which at any rate are inferior to the lands in this island—my own grain soon will begin to compete in the market and my fiscal strength will be made less. So I have said to those asking for seed grain that I could spare a little flour, but must husband my small store of seed, which is in a measure true. The two acres will be for barley and the one for rice, which I perceive they will

raise in considerable amounts on their lands, and nothing I can do will prevent.

The breaking of land was an easy task for I now had the help of two strong men and a bullock dragging a plow with an iron share. And it was a joy to me to see it cut through the sods which had so stubbornly resisted my poor wooden spade. And I marveled also at the great advance man achieves when he puts a harness on one of these dumb beasts and by applying his intelligence to guide their strength of neck and limb is able to have the most of his labor performed for him.

Behold, said I, is not this the beginning of the conquest of nature by nature's own forces? For the ox and the ass and the horse aid man also in carrying from place to place; and the water of a falling stream may be used to turn one's mill stones as may even the winds of the heavens; and in the face of such marvels of human ingenuity who knows what other forces may not some day be made man's servants?

And I secured the labor of the two men to break and harrow and sow my land for a small amount of flour with a little rice and two goats from my flock. And I had only to direct their labor.

Seeing that I might have others work for me at

so little cost I procured from the other settlement two good carpenters and a third who knew something of the shipwright's trade and in two months they built for me a sturdy sailing schooner of considerable depth and width, and about fifty feet over all, which was well suited to cruise between our islands carrying freight and passengers. And in the weavers' colony I discovered an old seafaring man, who had proved to be a poor hand at weaving and of little use at any land occupations; and him I induced to become master of my schooner at a wage to be made up of enough goat's meat, barley loaves and vegetables to keep him well fed and two suits of clothes a year. This with a little tobacco for his pipe was all he needed and he was more than content to serve me thus and I pleased to have him, for I perceived that what I should take in exchange for the carrying of cargoes and passengers would be more than this by far, and the possession of the boat would be an added source of profit.

And I perceived that when one permits the surplus of one's possessions to serve others he is compensated for this service, just as he would be if he placed his services at the disposal of his fellows. And at the end of the year my ship had earned for me a considerable store of merchandise over

and above what I had acquired by exchanging grain, rice, lemons, grapes and goats' flesh with the inhabitants of the other islands. So that my house and barns were filled with merchandise.

I made frequent voyages in my boat for the pleasure of the intercourse with other creatures of my kind, and for the profit of the trades which generally accompanied these meetings.

One day I called on two of the weaver's colony and found they had been too ill to work and had no cloth to offer in exchange. The weavers needed the flour I had brought; so I suggested that they keep the flour and settle at some future time when they should have been able to resume their work. So as a memorandum of the affair I had them write on a flat shell, "Payment due for six measures of flour. Weavers."

And in leaving I mused to myself: **Here is** the beginning of credit as a medium of exchange. Credit which is one man's trust in another, is a great help in the proper distribution of the world's products. Without credit I should have had to take my flour back home where I did not need it, since this was part of my surplus stock. Meantime the weavers would have been without what they needed and would be able in the end to pay

for. But now, by means of credit, I am able to regard my half of this exchange as an accomplished fact and this part of the world's work of distribution is completed. The other part will be completed when I have exchanged my credit for some commodity which I want.

Whereupon I remembered that I needed some carpentering on my house, so I returned to the weavers' island and asked:

"Have you a carpenter in your midst who is not busy?"

"Certainly," said they, "and what is more the carpenter owes us for his last suit of clothes."

"That is excellent," I exclaimed, "for it enables me to exchange this credit for six days' services at carpentering; and when the labor is performed I will pay the carpenter with this credit. Then, indeed, all will be paid."

Which accordingly we did, and I was greatly impressed with the value of credit as a medium of exchange.

## CHAPTER XIII

THE end of the next five years saw great changes in our island world. In numbers we were much increased for there had been added two shiploads of refugees, or prisoners as they more properly should be called—victims of the revolutions which had gone on in Peru and Chili. Those in power had sent them hither, and they were set down on the two islands near mine—yet why not on mine I knew not—with no means of getting back to their native land and under sentence if they did so to be stood up against a wall and shot. For such was the custom in those lands. And we were now close to seven hundred adult men and women, not counting children which were very numerous.

Being now so many it was difficult at first to secure free exchange among all who had need of things and who had work or goods to contribute to the common store; for credit will proceed only between those who are known one to another and when there are many who are strangers, and some possibly who for laziness or a tendency to deceive

are not deserving to be trusted, exchange cannot proceed as it does between a smaller number who are all known one to another. But presently this was rectified by the finding of silver among the rocks of that island where the miners and iron workers dwelt. The silver was not in large quantities nor was it free, but it must needs be dug and smelted at considerable cost of labor, so that when it was refined and stamped into the shape of a small coin, each coin had cost as much in labor to produce it as, directed in other ways, would have produced a bushel of grain or the equivalent in other merchandise. But it was more convenient to carry a piece of silver than the grain or other merchandise, and the silver could be exchanged at a fixed value for labor or commodities and therefore was eagerly welcomed as a medium of exchange. By this medium strangers could do business, for the silver having value, it took the place of credit and all exchanges were made more free and simple. Grain which had before been the measure of value, now ceased to be so and merchandise was measured in terms of these silver coins each of which was about a quarter the size of an English shilling.

And I perceived now for the first time that no



man cares for money for itself, but for what it will buy. And I remembered how when I was a solitary exile on my island the thing which I valued least of those things I rescued from the wreck was the little hoard of gold and silver coins. Gladly would I have exchanged the whole for a tobacco pipe, or a pound of salt. But now when there were numerous men and women attempting to divide among themselves the world's labors—those labors by which man is fed, clothed, and sheltered—then it becomes of great importance that there be one commodities which all will value alike and all will accept on the same terms of exchange for what he or she has to give, some commodities which will maintain its value the same from day to day and year to year, which will not corrode or deteriorate and which can easily be transported and will have a mark upon it—which commodities, of course, are the materials, gold and silver.

Silver alone did us very well, and exchanges went on freely. The worker exchanged his work or the product of his work for money and then exchanged the money for the work, or product of the work of others. No one cared for the money for itself. It was valued only for what it would command in

exchange. But everybody wanted as much money as he could get for his work or products, because this money measured his right to command the products or the work of others.

And after a while I beheld another thing concerning money. For I saw the silver disappear and in its place were paper memoranda showing that so much money had been deposited in a public treasury and could be had by one presenting this bit of paper. This did away with the necessity for carrying about much of the silver money and only small amounts had to be used to meet the small exchanges. And the people preferred the paper so long as they knew the money was in safe hands and could be had on demand.

I was greatly inconvenienced by the coining of money, for I had stores of merchandise which I had taken in exchange for which I had no immediate need, such as cloth, tools, dressed lumber and all manner of building material and preserved foods. And these I soon disposed of for silver and of the latter I laid up a large store.

And the silver coins were called marks, for that they most resembled such a coin of that country whence most of these colonists had come.

And having now much money for which I had no immediate use I began to inquire in my mind as to what use I might put it to. And how this was presently answered the next chapter will tell.

## CHAPTER XIV

THERE came to me one from the weavers' colony and spoke thus:

“We know that you have been prospered in your exchanges and have more money than any single one among us. Now I have a plan by which I can make your money useful to you. I know how to construct a water wheel and the machinery by which the water wheel would turn the stones for grinding grain into flour. Near the house where I live is a stream with an excellent fall of water and if I had a thousand marks I could hire the labor to build a mill which would grind all the grain for this colony. Lend me the thousand marks and I will pledge you the mill and my personal honor that I will pay you ten marks each year for every hundred you lend me and I will eventually repay the principal sum out of the earnings which will come to me for grinding the colony's flour.”

The plan was indeed an excellent one, and my money was soon at work; so that without effort on my part I was soon receiving each year ten marks

for every hundred I had lent together with part of the principal sum which was coming back.

In this again I was one of those who permit their possessions to be of service to others; but in a different way from the case of the schooner, for that was my own risk and venture, while in loaning money I was assured of a fixed return and had no need to supervise the work.

And I perceived that it was pleasanter to permit one's possessions to do the work than to labor at producing for one's self. For now I had little labor that it was really necessary for me to do, but I busied myself supervising the labor of those who worked for me and in doing such things as I might choose for increasing my fiscal strength.

And I began to see that ownership is the basis of all fiscal strength—the ownership of money or the things that can be exchanged for money.

And this was brought home to me strongly when I was visited early by a group who were without work, from the barren and rocky island where the miners lived. These desired to set up tilling operations on my island.

To this I said I would consent on terms usual in such affairs. I would rent them ten acres of excellent land for ten marks a year the acre.

“Do you own this island?” asked the leader of the group.

“I do,” said I, “I discovered it. I was here first. According to the customs of land ownership in all parts of the world, it is mine.”

“It isn’t fair,” quoth a surly fellow. “No one ought to be allowed to own more land than he can himself use.”

I did not admit that what the fellow said was true, but stood on my rights and was fully supported by the opinion of the other colonists. So I began to rent the arable parts of my domain on these terms.

This was the most advantageous thing I had yet experienced; for now I began to receive an income which was far in excess of all my needs and for which I did no work at all.

This opened my eyes to the advantage of owning lands and I began to look about for opportunities to secure other lands which might produce similar returns. And the occasion soon appeared. For one day I had brought a load of melons and other fruits to the weavers’ landing; but finding no one at hand and knowing that the weavers would want what I had brought, I put the articles ashore and hired a man who was fishing to mind the fruit and sell them

to any offering a fair price. The fisherman took charge and erecting a temporary shelter disposed of the stock and later made his accounts to me.

“Surely,” said I, “this is the beginning of a market place. For a market place is the convenient spot where commodities pause on their way from the producer to the consumer while questions of want and right to share are worked out.”

And so it proved, for others later came and displayed their wares for sale and a regular market grew up between the wharf and the dwellings of the weavers.

Foreseeing which I bought all this land from the weavers, they gladly taking my money for what they could see little value in; but they did later when I charged rent for use of the wharf and the stalls in the market place, which, indeed added considerably to my income.

## CHAPTER XV

My experience in disposing of the load of melons which had been brought to the weavers' island led me to reflect as follows:

I perceive here the beginning of distribution as one of the tasks of the world. Necessities must not only be produced and transported; they must be distributed. And in due course distribution, like other labors, becomes a specialty. The loiterer whom I have taken from his fishing and made keeper and salesman of my cargo is now one of the world's distributors. He is helping to get the product to the man who is to consume it. When there are so many consumers with so many differing wants and so many articles to meet them, much work must be done to suit the needs of all and to get all the articles where they are wanted. To do this work calls for those who specialize on this work alone.

And I summed up thus:

Production, transportation and distribution are the great labors of the world. Men work to produce from the raw materials yielded by the earth



the things men need; and having thus produced them, they work to transport and distribute them. Without work there would be neither food, clothes nor shelter. By work all these are brought into existence—together with many other things which contribute merely to man's amusement or additional comfort. And these things are placed at man's disposal at the time and place most convenient to him. Verily work is honorable, and it is a just decree that he who will not work shall not eat.

Further I observed that men have found that it is better to attack these undertakings with the combined labor and diversified skill of the entire community rather than for each to undertake the performance of all things for himself. This results in specialization and organization, and makes necessary the exchange of products among all. For the specialist produces but one kind of article—though in quantities more than he needs—but his needs are of all things. Without exchange, therefore—the exchange of his specialty for the specialties of the rest—he could not live. He would not have food, clothes or shelter.

Thus it happens that there must be exchange and to make exchange easy a common medium, such as

metal money, supplementing credit without which few exchanges would take place.

And thus it happens also that the necessity that is upon all to resort to this thing called exchange to secure what all must have to live, affords an opportunity to the person of the greater fiscal strength to take advantage of the person of less fiscal strength and to compel the latter to yield more than a strictly fair return for what he receives; and the consequences of this are seen in the fact that all the less agreeable tasks of the world, and the more onerous ones, are performed in return for the least rewards. They are, indeed, performed under a sort of fiscal compulsion.

Of what fiscal strength is made up, and of how it is lessened by competition and increased by the absence of competition, I have spoken. And how the ownership of lands and wharves, and instruments of transportation like ships are important aids to fiscal strength, was made more evident to me by each new experience.

And now I have come to that point in my narrative where I must review briefly the happenings of a score of years. For it was in the twenty-fourth year after I was cast away that there came an end to my residence in this part of the earth. And the

strange happenings that then took place I shall tell at the proper time.

In the years which followed, and while I was busily solving my fiscal problems, the colony was developing in many ways. The people soon got together and built a school-house and a church on each island and later they built a general assembly hall where they could gather to discuss matters affecting the general welfare of the community. In order to meet expenses of this sort they agreed to tax themselves in proportion to their property. One man was chosen to settle the disputes. He was judge. Another to gather the taxes. He was assessor. Six were selected to draw up laws in accord with the wishes of a majority of the people. They were parliament. And a general manager for the community was chosen, and it was agreed to call him Governor. They chose a man of honesty to handle the community money and called him treasurer. A constable was selected to put down any disturbance; and they built a small gaol.

And the colonists began now to seek the satisfaction of wants as well as needs. Having solved the problem of a regular supply of food, clothes and shelter with the expenditure by each man of some eight hours of labor daily, they began to seek also

pleasure. They paid small sums to certain of their number to sing and dance for them; and in time they paid also preachers and lecturers, and even printed books and a paper once a week. There were those who polished semi-precious stones, of which the islands yielded not a few, and some who tried their skill at painting pictures and carving statuary; though with no high degree of art. And those who were thus engaged were in return supplied with necessaries by those who produced the latter. And in time the colony organized a small army and equipped a schooner with a few small cannon for a navy, delighting to see the soldiers drill and the small warship maneuver and shoot its guns.

“I perceive,” said I, observing this, “that every man who is used in occupations of this sort is not available for producing, transporting or distributing food, clothes or shelter. So the more we have of pleasure and war, the more we pay for the things we all must have.”

But this troubled me not at all, for I had enough and to spare, and the burdening was upon the poor, who, by reason of their fiscal weakness, could not shift it from themselves.

## CHAPTER XVI

AS TIME went on I found it profitable to bring more land under cultivation. By purchasing machinery and hiring laborers this was easy to accomplish.

I soon perceived that the greater a man's income is, the easier is it to add thereto; I mean without labor other than taking thought as to how investments shall be made and what business is good to venture on.

Seeing my prosperity my neighbors came to me offering to lend me money, assuming, as I take it, that having much I would be able certainly to pay it back. So that I was able, to my amusement, to borrow at a low rate and to lend again the same money at a high rate, and thus to add to my income with no labor whatsoever.

And in other ways my properties were increased, as when the owner of a mill which I had advanced the money to set up, having ill fortune and being unable to redeem his pledge to repay the loan, I was compelled to take the mill; and having set a skillful

workman to manage it, I had much more from it than I had received when it was merely a pledge for the loan. And another mill having been set up near by I saw that it would be well to buy that also, thereby wiping out competition in the milling trade; having done which I was able to double the charge for all milling done. And this, too, was much to my advantage.

I had not neglected meantime to buy the lands about the harbor—it chanced that there was but one—of the islands where the iron workers dwelt; and as I now controlled all the harbors of the three islands, and could say what boats might or might not land, I readily bought the two other boats which had been built to compete with my schooner and thus controlled the carrying trade between the islands.

The owners of the iron mines found that the carrying charges on their products ate up a large share of the profit of their labors so they were in a mood to listen to an offer to purchase all these properties which I caused to be made to them through a discreet agent, and in that manner I became the owner of the mines and the iron mills.

Some bold spirits among the iron workers were disposed to grumble at seeing these properties fall into the possession of one man, and particularly so

when wages were reduced—for having no spur of competition I was not compelled to pay more than a bare living wage. But they soon discovered that it was more discreet to keep their opinions to themselves; for when they had been discharged they found it difficult to get other work. They thought at first they might turn to the cultivation of the soil, but they soon perceived that land had so increased in price that they were unable to buy or even to rent enough to keep them. So they were compelled to hire out by the day to the tenants who had long ago rented tracts on my island.

I have spoken of the parliament which the colonists had set up to make such laws as they might need. This body at various times required my attention; for once a law was proposed which would have vested the ownership of the docks in the people and brought carrying charges under regulation. This I denounced as opposed to all respectable usage and savoring of revolution against property and I took pains that one of my capable and faithful employes should be put forward as a candidate against this member of the parliament and with the assistance of the many who were friendly to me or were bound to me in some business way I had no difficulty in

substituting my man for him that had put forward the obnoxious legislation.

After that I gave close attention to all those put forward as candidates and by quietly contributing funds where they would be most effective was able to keep a parliament in office made up of men untainted by disturbing doctrines.

In this experience it was borne in upon me that the foundation of all fiscal power, whether it be used for good or bad, is in the laws of ownership. For if the community had been unwilling to maintain a law which said that I, by discovering an island, became owner of it, I could not have collected rents for vast tracts which I had leased to my neighbors. So also the law had permitted me by paying a trifling sum to acquire the ownership of lands which the community must use if it were to live, such as those on which the wharves were built and the various market sites. So, too, I was permitted to control by ownership the exhaustless riches of minerals—coal, iron and silver—which nature had deposited for man's use, but which these people could not use except with my consent. For this consent they all paid me tribute.

And I marveled greatly that people intelligent enough to form laws by majority consent, should



form such laws as should cut themselves off from the means of livelihood and forge fiscal bonds to bind them to the service of a few who have the wit or luck to acquire fiscal strength.

But it was not for me to tell them to change the laws so that lands might be free to those who would make them yield, or mines to those who might be willing to dig their contents, or harbors to the many who must use them. And in truth these people were doing only what other peoples have done for centuries; and it is opposed to the habit of men's minds to think out new ways for making the state of all men better; but each hopes that he may win a position of fiscal strength and come to live upon the work of others, so he lends his influence against the welfare of the whole and deserves the hardships which in practically every instance are put upon him.

Now it happened that the Governor of the colony for a considerable time had been a man elected to the office largely by my aid. He was a man of pleasant ways and excellent intentions, but not rich, and he knew that what little property he had would be jeopardized if he should offend me. So when I informed him that it was my desire to be honored by this office he readily retired and I was chosen with no opposition.

Before this I had enjoyed many perquisites of my increased wealth. I wore better clothes than the others; my house was larger and better furnished and I kept two boats for my private use together with a dozen servants.

I had taken a wife from one of the best families in the colony, a woman of unusual personal charm who dutifully bore me four healthy and promising children.

As Governor it was my endeavor so to administer the colony's affairs that I might have a favorable mention in the history of this island nation. To this end I had a Governor's palace built of a character suitable to the office, and a Public Library in each of the islands, each builded entirely at my own expense.

I was able to use my influence as Governor to keep the taxes low on lands and to distribute the burden among that large and useful class known as laborers. This, however, I did by indirection and without ostentation.

My will I made about this time. For I deem it a matter of ordinary prudence that a man having property should face the certainty that one day he must take leave of this earthly sphere and go to that place which an all-wise Providence has prepared for

those who have repented for their sins and sought salvation for their souls through the mediating grace of the only begotten Son. To continue the property, therefore, in the possession of my natural heirs I took the advice of the best lawyers in our midst and on their advice, a trust was arranged which was to last as the lawyers say "a life on a life," which would be in all likelihood a half century at least; and the heirs were to have only the income of the estates, but never the principal—the income being now very great and sufficient for all luxuries as well as needs. And thus I had the satisfaction of knowing that my estates would not be squandered, but would go on increasing in value as the community grew in numbers and in importance.

But in all these matters my expectations were doomed to disappointment for reasons which in the next chapter I will relate.

## CHAPTER XVII

It had long been my custom to set down daily the important happenings in my life, a habit which had begun in noting down the days, weeks and months and such things as I desired to keep a record of in the early years of my solitary life on my island. The early record was of the various expedients I had used to build a shelter from the elements to insure myself a supply of food and to put clothing on my back. How these matters were worked out when other human beings were near at hand presented problems of no less interest to my mind and these I have set down, too, together with such comments as seemed to go with them, and the whole I had preserved in a considerable volume which I hoped might some day be read with interest by the generations which should perpetuate my name. It was read, alas, by those who were not of my kin, by certain treacherous fellows who found access by stealth or subterfuge to the place where it was kept—with what results I was presently to learn. For on the sixth day of October, 1686, the night being dark

and somewhat blustering with a mist and no moon I was suddenly set upon as I was returning to my house from a stroll upon the beach—the hour being about eight in the evening and before I had opportunity to cry out or give an alarm or in any way defend myself, I was thrown to the ground, my head was bound with a scarf which gagged and almost suffocated me and when I had been securely bound I felt myself carried I knew not whither and laid down I knew not where, nor did I have any notion of what was happening or why until a long time afterward when I was released and found myself in the cabin of one of my pleasure boats at sea and the ship under a full spread of canvas.

My captors proved to be three members of the island's law making body, young fellows whom I had known but slightly but whom I had always looked upon as honest and thoughtful citizens. To my amazed questionings they gave most amazing answers.

“A revolution is taking place in the island,” the spokesman said, “and the committee on the common welfare has decreed your removal.”

From which I understood that I was being taken out to sea to be drowned.

“Not that,” went on the leader gathering from

my expression what were my thoughts. "It is our hope that your removal may be accomplished without anything more serious than an adventurous trip which you will make to the mainland and thence back to England, if indeed you are so favored as to reach that goal. But should you return your drowning or death by some other means is decreed. In about an hour from now you will be transferred to another boat and in that you will be conveyed by two of our faithful patriots to some landing from which you will have to venture afterward by yourself. We will soon be back in this vessel with an account of an unhappy accident, namely, that while you were endeavoring to stay the foresail during a sudden shifting of the wind you fell overboard and before we could put the ship about and come to your assistance you were drowned."

"And to what purpose," I inquired, "is all this mummary?"

"That the people may believe that you are dead and that by your will all the properties of which you have been the owner are passed to public ownership."

Saying which the speaker laid before me on the table a document in form like the will which I had caused to be drawn up; but I noted that the date of

the witnessing and the attest was of several months past, and that the document lacked only my signature to make it formal. By this will all the lands and properties of which I stood seized were quit-claimed to the people of the three-island settlement for their common use.

“Your signature to this document will pay your passage to the continent,” I was told “If you do not care to sign it the supposed drowning can be made a real one.”

Seeing that it would be worse than useless to resist I made a virtue of necessity and told my captors it would make me very happy to become in this way the benefactor of my fellow citizens. I quickly signed the will.

This matter finished, the revolutionary leader favored me with further explanation.

“Your diary,” said he, “is one potent cause of these present happenings. A servant’s curiosity brought your writings to the attention of others who were curious, and to still others who were interested, and finally to those who had long sought for some remedy for certain difficult problems touching the people’s welfare. For there has grown up in our midst this thing called poverty. In a land where nature has been bountiful, and there would

seem to be enough of all things for all, there have appeared those who did not have food nor a sufficient amount of clothes or shelter. We have found that work could not be had by all, and that those who worked were not necessarily those who possessed. The drudgery was done for the least compensation, and many of those things which are produced go to the ownership and control of those who labor not at all."

The speaker paused to observe the effect on me of his words. I assured him that what he said was true. Whereupon he went on as follows:

"The reason for this unfortunate state of things together with the remedy which should be applied we found in the diary which you left. We perceived that many of these consequences flow from the great disparity in fiscal strength among our people; and the basis and substance of fiscal strength, as you have so clearly set forth in your writings is ownership. It is the ownership of lands over and above what the owner is able or willing to use which enables him to exact rent; it is the ownership of such public highways as harbor frontages and wharves which exacts added tribute; and it is the ownership of nature's storehouses such as mines, water powers, and forests which adds to the ability of the owner"



to take toll of those who must draw on these resources to maintain their lives. But unless our laws permitted private ownership of such properties, those who have thriven and grown powerful on such ownership would not have waxed so great. The fault is ours for we are supposed to make the laws not for the few and strong but for the many, including those who are weak. We, the people, have forged the chains which bind us to the service of our fiscal masters.”

What the young man said was the truth; but imagine my sensations when I had these doctrines hurled at me almost in the words I had set them down as abstract truths, thought out merely for the pleasure of the thinking.

“And will you then,” I asked, “abolish ownership?” For even in the extremity wherein I found myself I could not repress a curious interest along these lines.

“A man may own what he produces,” was the answer.

“And when I lend the shovel I have produced, am I to have no compensation for its use?”

“A shovel, yes,” the revolutionist replied. “Or a ship. But not the gifts of God to man. Not the harbors or the land, or the mineral in the ground,

or the power of the running stream or the timber of the uncut forests. These are things that should belong equally to all. When ownership is limited and not permitted to trespass on the unused stores of a bountiful Providence, man may be safely left to own all other things. His fiscal strength will not then become overweening. Men will differ among themselves, and always there will be those who will have more and those who will have less. Some men will be thrifty and some will be improvident. Some will set themselves to acquire and others will acquire only what they need. And men still will trade, buy and sell. But exchanges will be between men more nearly equal in their fiscal strength and therefore each exchange will be more fair. Each party to the trade is more apt to profit by it. And always there will be opportunity for one willing to exchange his labor for what man needs; for always there will be the measureless abundance of nature's stores to be converted into food, clothes and shelter for those who need them."

To this long speech I listened in silence for I had naught to say. Indeed he was but speaking those things I had myself discovered and to a large extent set down quite clearly in my daily writings. But, alas, my discovery had undone me. These rebels

had discovered that the path to freedom was to be found along fiscal lines, and I being the great obstruction in that path was now to be removed. Often in later years have I wondered what success attended their adventure. But my curiosity never was so insistent as to brave the menace of an attempt to return. I doubt not, however, these people found a larger measure of a practical kind of freedom than most people do in our larger world.

By this time the other boat had come into hailing distance and in due course I was put aboard. And as a parting gift I was handed the flip-can which I had brought ashore when I landed on my island—this as a souvenir of the life I was leaving now forever.

Six months later I was ashore at Liverpool after some hardships, but no adventures worthy of note as compared with those which I have already told. As to how the revolution fared in that three-island settlement I have never learned.







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