

# THE KING OF HONEY ISLAND

A NOVEL OF AMERICAN LIFE DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

BY MAURICE THOMPSON.

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## CHAPTER XX CONTINUED.

Mr. Vernon laid a heavy hand on the young man's shoulder, and they stood in silence, while the excited people went past them to and fro. The rain had ceased and the western sun flashed out fitfully between saddling clouds.

"Where were you going?" Mr. Vernon presently asked.

"To General Jackson's headquarters," he answered. "The army is moving."

"We will go together."

"And arm in arm they went."

## CHAPTER XXI

### RECOGNITION BY FIRE-LIGHT AND GUN-FLASH.

It was the afternoon of the 23d of December, 1814. Lieutenant Balanche and Mr. Vernon were not the only friends of the American cause who had seen the British pickets.

men, some of them well acquainted with the country, and make a bold ride right down through the British pickets.

He was successful; and what he did had in it a smack of the old time and the knightly. The invaders had flung out a weak line of pickets, and upon one of these the horsemen cast themselves at headlong speed. Close by Mr. Vernon's side rode Vasseur, mounted on a wiry little creole pony. There, too, young Louis Livingston, son of Edward, smooth-faced and boyish, dashed along, eager for the most dangerous adventure.

It was growing dark, and a thin fog was creeping across from the marshes of Borgne; the lights of the British camp-fires flared and flickered in a zigzag line from the river on the west to the dark swamp on the east. Mr. Vernon was familiar with every feature of the country, and there was one with him who knew just how to cross the rustic bridges over the

I was wrong in saying he was. You were right in saying he was. "Yes, sir," said Jackson, with vigorous promptness, "he's an infernal villain, a scoundrel and a traitor—out-throat! I'm amazed that you— But let's talk no more. Go at the enemy and give them fits. Remember the signal—the guns of the Carolina. Good luck, sir."

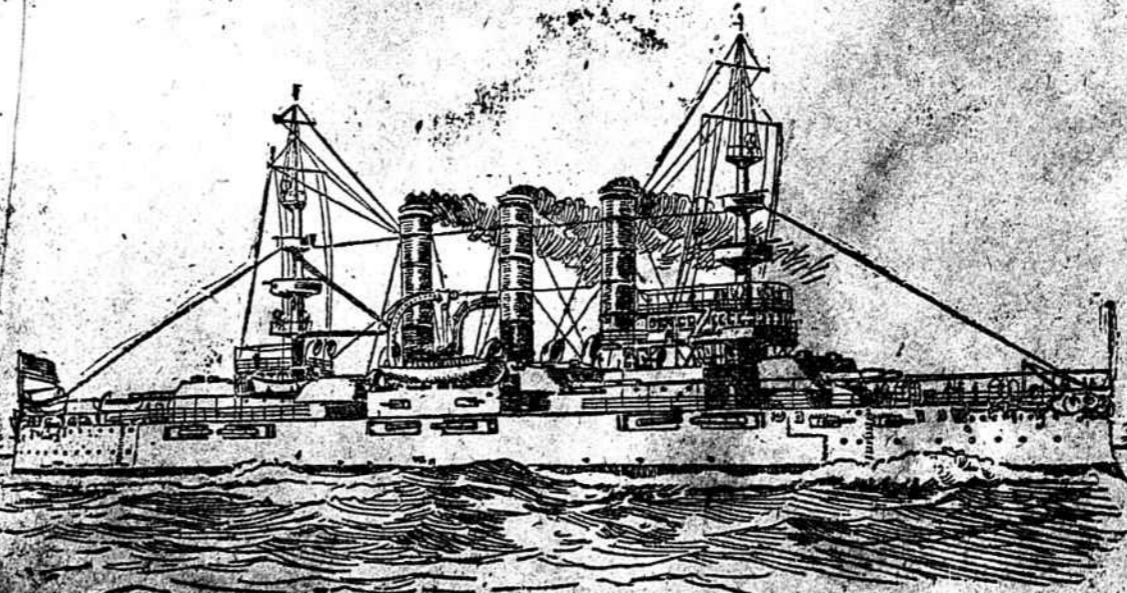
It was a ghastly night. The moon had risen, but it could not shine through the fog that momentarily thickened after the sun went down. Some trouble was had in forming the line, owing to the awkwardness and nervousness of the undisciplined troops; and this battle turned out to be, as every one knows, a wild confusion of hand-to-hand combats between straggling bands of both armies.

A signal-shot and then a whole brigade from the Carolina set the little, ill-formed line into motion just as a flight of flaming rockets lit up the whole British front.

Mr. Vernon had reported the ground as quite unfavorable to cavalry operations, and so all the riders were dismounted. Even the officers set out upon that strange night-attack on foot, plashing through the mire and tumbling waist-deep into ditches, leading their men amid the darkness and fog, often utterly ignorant of the points of direction and unable to distinguish friend from foe. It was an enthusiastic, harum-scarum rush from the outset, each little division anxious to be the first to fire at the enemy.

General Coffee took Fairfax, and

## THE NEW BATTLESHIP PENNSYLVANIA.



ONE OF FIVE TO BE BUILT FROM IDENTICAL PLANS AND FOR WHICH BIDS HAVE BEEN ASKED.

### The Future Home of Ex-President Kruger

The Belgium of

As soon as President Kruger reaches Belgium he will find his future home all ready for him. Thanks to the generosity of Oswald d'Ammerle, a Boer sympathizer in Belgium, the Chateau d'Anderlecht has been put at the disposal of the refugee ex-President by its owner, M. d'Ammerle has lived there for only two years, but it has exceeded all expectations as a residence.

The chateau is a pretty suburb, south-east of Brussels and consists of handsome mansions dotted about in grounds of limited extent on the slopes of the undulating country. The chateau, the Belgian got together several of his friends and fellow countrymen who believed in the Boer cause, and proposed to them that he give up his chateau to the use of the refugees. They were willing, of course, and so the scheme was brought about.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CENTENNIAL

Description of the Medals Fabricated by the United States Mint in Philadelphia.

The medal to be struck in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the day upon which the District of Columbia became the seat of the United States Government was received in Washington December 1. It was made at the United States Mint in Philadelphia, and in point of workmanship, as well as excellence of design, is one of the most expensive of the sort ever issued.



TRADE MARK OF THE UNITED STATES MINT IN PHILADELPHIA.

The design of the obverse is a profile of George Washington, facing left, with the inscription "WASHINGTON 1789-1869". The reverse shows a view of the United States Capitol building, with the inscription "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1800-1900".

The reverse side, across the center, is a panel with the inscription "Commemorative of the establishment of the National Government at Washington." Above this panel is a view of the Capitol building as it is to-day, over which is inscribed "United States Capitol, 1800." Below the panel is a view of the Capitol building as it appeared 100 years ago, over which is inscribed "United States Capitol, 1800."

The medal used in the manufacture of the ribbon for the portion of the Capitol building, and some that was used at the White House.

Chinese in a State.



A common sight in China is the exposed coffin or basket containing, of course, the corpse of some departed Celestial, without any covering of earth or inclosing tomb.

The first and highest ambition of every Chinaman is to have a splendid coffin, and he will half starve himself and family for years in order to acquire the coveted casket. The buying of it does not depend at all upon the state of his health, but of his finances, and in this connection many will recall the statement that El HUNG Chang, when he made his tour of the United States, took his coffin with him. When the coffin is purchased, it is given the place of honor in the house and is looked upon as the most valuable piece of furniture in it.

As no Chinese family of any pretensions would seem lacking in respect for its head, dead or alive, the Chinese son will deprive himself of comforts for half his life that he may be able to present his father with a fine coffin on his sixty-first birthday, and when his revered parent dies he will give a gorgeous "send off" at the funeral, even if he has to wait many moons to do so.

Newspapers of Regiments.

Most of the British regiments have their own newspapers, published once a month. The news consists chiefly of matters pertaining to the officers and men of the regiment and their families, but the papers also devote regular columns to sporting news, humor, poetry or other departments. All contributions are from members of the regiment. These papers are much in favor among the officers and soldiers, and many of them are very well edited.

With the deaf mute actions always speed louder than words.

### CHATEAU D'ANDERLECHT, WHERE ENJOYED

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## A Texas Ranch as Large as Two States.

The largest ranch in the world is to be had in Texas. This immense domain is known as the X. I. T. ranch, and is owned by Chicago capitalists.

This ranch is so extensive that some States could not contain it. Connected, for example, could not hold it by several thousand acres. The two States of Rhode Island and Delaware combined could not contain this great ranch, which consists of over 3,000,000 acres, or almost 5,000 square miles.

About twelve years ago, when Texas needed a new State capitol, the Legislature adopted a novel plan to get it. A promise was held forth that a vast tract of unappropriated land would be given in exchange for a suitable granite building at Austin. Among those tempted by this offer were Senator Charles B. Farwell and his brother John, who ultimately formed a syndicate in Chicago, and took upon themselves the responsibility of erecting the proposed capitol. In due time they came into the possession of the domain known as the X. I. T. ranch.

The ranch is situated in the extreme northwest corner of the panhandle of Texas, and covers or touches nine different counties. Its northern boundary is "No Man's Land," now a part of the Territory of Oklahoma, and its western limit is the line between Texas and New Mexico. It extends from east to west it averages about twenty-five miles. In length it is about 200 miles. The land here is known as the Staked Plains, a high plateau. The soil is mostly a thin, or chocolate color—very fertile, covered with a thick coat of mesquite, grama and other grasses, which grow on the ground and in winter as well as summer pastures of all kinds. At the southern end of the tract the altitude is 2,500 feet and at the northern end it is 4,700. The climate is pronouncedly very delightful, the air being pure, though dry.

When the Farwells obtained the land they inclosed it with a double barbed-wire fence. There are cross-fences upon it, separating the territory into from twenty to thirty large divisions. Besides many miles of barbed wire, the syndicate also built ranch houses, dug wells, of which there are about 350, averaging 120 feet deep, and having earthen or wooden roofs and drinking attachments.



### LARGEST RANCH IN THE WORLD.

ed windmills over the wells, and dams across arroyos to conserve the rainfall, and in various other ways made the place suitable for a successful ranch on a large scale. They placed cattle upon it as fast as it could be put in safe condition to receive them, and have since continued to add to the herd from time to time. The chase and breeding until they have present about 120,000 cattle, besides 1,000 horses. The calf crop headed in 1898 exceeded 50,000 head. The whole property is valued at \$10,000,000.

### Everything Made of Irish Peat.

A large Dublin manufacturer has a room entirely furnished with Irish peat. The carpets on the floor, the curtains at the windows and the paper on the wall are made from this substance. For years he has experimented with the material, which is now being largely exported as fuel, and has discovered that from it it is possible to produce almost any kind of thing. The process is simple, the materials which are strong and tough, being extracted and woven like cotton or silk. The fabrics have the toughness, luster and the warmth of wool. Blankets made of them are found to excel in warmth and lightness. Anything yet discovered.

### Cat Rode 120 Miles on a Flywheel.