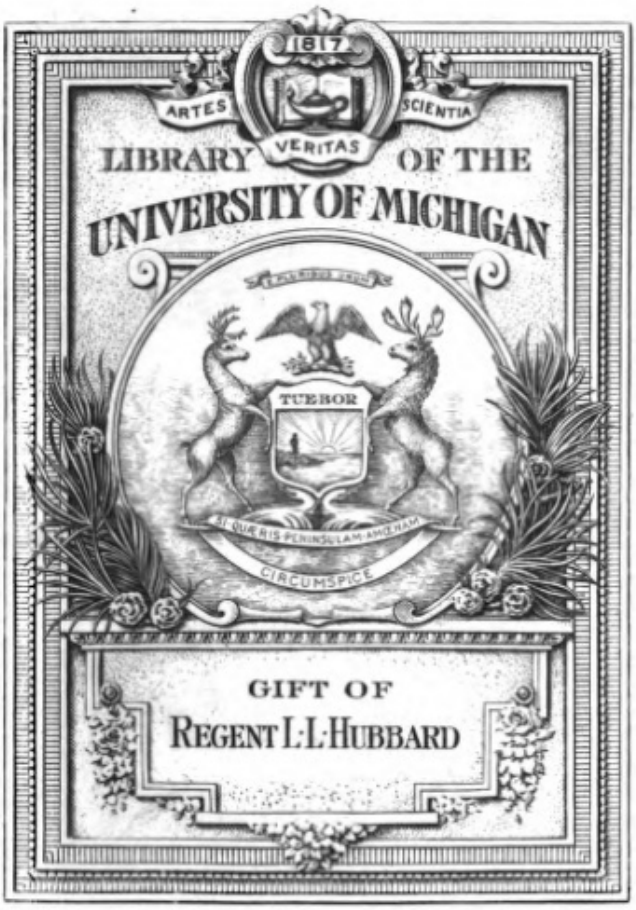
MAROONED ON AUSTRALIA

ERNEST FAVENC

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

M234

PAUL AND DIEDRICH ARE MAROONED IN A GREAT UNKNOWN LAND.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Rare Book Room
Director
Bonner
12.22.54
90381

Dedicated to the Memory of my Friend
Edmond Marin de la MESLEE
by whose accidental death Australia lost both an ardent geographer and an enthusiastic student of the history of the Austral Continent.

ERNEST FAVENC

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PREFACE.

In the following romance I have endeavoured to associate the tradition of De Gonneville's visit to Australia with the historical fact of the wreck of the *Batavia*, and the marooning of two of the mutineers. The wreck of the *Batavia* is perhaps one of the most murderous tragedies that ever happened in any part of the world. One of the ruffians confessed, before being hanged, to having killed and assisted to kill, twenty-five defenceless people. A full account of the wreck and the massacre will be found in *Pinkerton's Early Voyages.*

I have taken a liberty with history in introducing Captain Sharpe, the buccaneer, as in reality he never visited the Australian coast, although some of his crew did. I must also confess to having taken some freedom with chronology as, under the name of Hoogstraaten, I have introduced Abel Janz Tasman many years before

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CONTENTS

Chap.		Page
I.	The Wreck of the *Batavia*,	11
II.	We start for the North,	22
III.	A Strange People,	31
IV.	The Frenchman's Cross,	41
V.	The Fight in the Bay,	52
VI.	Paul discovers Gold,	65
VII.	Another Pirate Junk,	77
VIII.	Paul's Treachery,	89
IX.	I fight a Duel,	101
X.	A Storm,	113
XI.	The Rebellion,	125
XII.	Azolta's Stratagem,	138
XIII.	The Pirate Flag,	150
XIV.	We Entertain the Pirate Captain,	163
XV.	We Destroy the Mongol Junk,	176
XVI.	A Strange Discovery,	188
XVII.	The Great Catastrophe,	196
XVIII.	Rescue by Dutch Ships,	205
	Appendix,	219

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
PAUL AND DIEDRICH ARE MAROONED IN A GREAT UNKNOWN LAND . . . . . *Frontis.*	22
CHART SHOWING THE ROUTE TAKEN BY DIEDRICH AND PAUL	10
PAUL DREW HIS SHORT SWORD AND STOOD ON THE DEFENSIVE	72
DIEDRICH RALLIES THE QUADRUCOS AND RECAPTURES THE TOWN	143

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MAROONED ON AUSTRALIA

CHAPTER I

The Wreck of the *Batavia*—The Mutiny—Return of Pelsart—Marooned.

JEROM CORNELIS! Even now after all the suffering and danger I have gone through, that man's face, the face of the tempter, comes back to me as vividly as ever.

My father was a substantial merchant of Harlem, and in that town I was born, being the second son. That was the age of discovery, and the thirst for it was inherent in nearly every youth. The wonderful success of the Dutch East India Company had fired all men with enthusiasm, and as I grew towards manhood, I longed to make one of the many bands of adventurers who often

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

singular man strove to win my affection. Why he did so I cannot say even to this day.

We had been nearly two months at sea, when Cornelis confided to me a plan he had formed, in conjunction with the pilot and some other mutinous spirits, to seize the ship and turn pirate. I endeavoured to dissuade him, but without avail; he bound me over to secrecy and assured me that my life was safe whatever happened, as he would not allow me to take an active part in it, which I certainly had no intention of doing. The plot, however, was frustrated by the weather and other causes, and although I am certain it came to the ears of our commander, Captain Pelsart, he did not, unfortunately, hang the mutineers out of hand as one would have expected from a man of his determination.

Now one would have thought that this would have revealed to me the true character of Cornelis, but such an infatuated fool was I, and so beguiled by his specious tongue, that I still remained his friend and admirer.

We had now doubled the great southern cape, and storm after storm burst upon us with relentless fury. One by one we lost sight of our consorts and at last found ourselves

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"What do you mean by more?" I asked Paul.

"There is gold here," he returned. "Plenty of it. I found a lot of stones with veins of the metal, when I was out hunting one day."

He went to the corner where he slept and brought out some white stones in which he showed me yellow streaks which certainly looked like gold.

"I have seen it before," he said, "though not in this shape."

Now this determined me more than ever. Should my countrymen learn of this, nothing would stop them from swarming over the land, and the fate of the Quadrucos would be settled.

"Paul," I said, "have you no gratitude for the people who welcomed us and treated us so well? Do you not know what will happen to them if the Company hears of this place, and establishes a Factory here? Can you say that you have the heart to dream of such a plan?"

"Right well do I know what will happen, Diedrich; but it is a lot that must be theirs sooner or later; you yourself must confess

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

M 234

PAUL DREW HIS SHORT SWORD AND STOOD ON THE DEFENSIVE.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

more visit; but we had worse visitors in store.

The battle being over without any loss on our side—having fortunately had someone else to do the fighting for us—a most disagreeable duty remained. This was the trial of Paul and his accomplices. By my advice Namoa was taken into our confidence, and also another of the head men.

The culprits were brought to the palace, and after due admonition were taken to the great cross of Gonneville, for which the people had a superstitious reverence, and there made to vow that they would never be led to make such an attempt again, under penalty of death for a repetition of the fault. Paul, by my advice, had pleaded that he only wanted to make a trial of the boat, but he was deprived of his red turban and had to wear a white one in future — a punishment for which he did not care the snap of a finger, but which, in the eyes of the Quadrucos, was a great degradation.

If Zolca had had his way he would have made the punishments death, I verily believe, so much had I worked on his feelings by my description of what was to be ex-

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ing? As I now know that these people are of great antiquity, and religiously preserve their traditions, I believe that I then arrived at the right solution.

CHAPTER VIII.

A Dutch Ship comes in Sight—Paul's Treachery—The Captain lands.

THREE years passed peacefully and happily, undisturbed even by the wretched Papoos. Paul seemed to have at last given up his mad notion of endeavouring to reach Java and return to civilization.

One day it struck me to ask Zolca about the carven stone head, and he told me that it was done by a Quadruco in the reign of his grandfather; that this man was very clever at the work, and had done many heads, and also made figures out of mud. Some of these he showed me, and I was much struck with them, also with the thought of this savage genius living and dying unknown amongst his countrymen; whereas, had he been in Europe, he might have been taught to be a great sculptor.

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the headlands, noticing how much the formation of the bay resembled our own, when, happening to look towards the north, I was astonished to see a full-rigged ship in the distance. Hastily calling Zolca I drew his attention to it, explaining that these were the enemies to be feared far more than the pirates. The wind was light, and she was coming on under easy sail, apparently examining the coast-line as closely as she dared. The tide had risen considerably, and the line of breakers had nearly disappeared, so that the entrance to the bay looked smooth and inviting.

I had been extremely puzzled what to do, but had now made up my mind and communicated my idea to Zolca. By my advice we removed all our clothing and made ourselves as like the Papoos as possible; then, retaining all our weapons, we patrolled the headland in full view of the ship. My stratagem succeeded. When opposite the bay she hove to and lowered a boat, evidently with the intention of examining the bay and surrounding country. My instructions were to make a hostile demonstration, but to avoid bloodshed; fire arrows over their

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

mouth of our bay during the dark hours of the night.

My feelings were very strange at thus frightening my countrymen off the coast, when a few years back I would have hailed them with tears of joy; but the change in Paul had so affected me that I could not believe that they would keep faith, even if we allowed them to land and make friends. I was rarely glad, however, that we had succeeded in disgusting them with the country without shedding blood, and still more pleased when, on reaching home, we found that the ship had not been sighted, so that she must have passed in the night.

Still she was a looming danger. She had gone south, and would possibly come back again. Paul said little, and displayed no great interest when he heard of the vessel.

I have said that in this country the seasons were wet and dry, rather than hot and cold. The wet season was now approaching, and squalls from the north-west were frequent. The buildings of the Quadrucos were built on rising ground, they having had some bitter experiences of former floods in the

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

fair rate of speed, and in about a couple of hours or less was abreast of the bay.

It will be remembered that between our bay and the one to the north there was a great resemblance, and, having formerly passed our bay in the night and not knowing of its existence, I was in great hopes that they would take it to be the one where they had tried to land before, and not think it worth while to examine it again. It would have all happened just as I wished but for the treachery of my old comrade Paul.

Suddenly she changed her course and came close in to the shore. Astonished at this manœuvre I looked round for the cause, which was not far to find. Whilst all eyes had been fixed seaward, the traitor had removed the screen of boughs from the Cross, and, not content with this, had climbed the post and fastened a long streamer of red stuff to the top.

Zolca's eyes were like burning coals, and had the culprit been in sight it would have fared hard with him. I saw that we must act quickly.

"Order the men back to the town," I said.

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"May I inquire, sir, your name, and that of your vessel?"

Both men started and stared in amazement, and no wonder, at hearing themselves thus addressed by an inhabitant of Terra Australis.

"Who are you, in the name of wonder?" stammered one at last.

"I am from Holland, and was shipwrecked here many years ago. I have adopted this country as my own, and am now one of these people. This," I said, motioning to Zolca to come forward, "is Prince Zolca, the chief of this country, who bids you welcome."

Zolca, who had been tutored by me, held out his hand and the officer I had been addressing took it respectfully. The fellow with the red face curled his moustache and looked on with a sneer.

"May I inquire the name of your ship?" continued the officer.

Now I knew that this question would be asked and had puzzled much over the answer. I determined to tell the truth, for I had undergone my undeserved punishment.

"My name is Diedrich Buys, of Harlem,

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

how we had been welcomed as friends of his. He had read of the Norman's voyage and was deeply interested in what I told him. We then went forward to the scattered town of the Quadrucos. Hoogstraaten looked with intelligent interest on the strange and novel sights, whilst Arendsoon dawdled along, twirling his moustache and leering at any of the pretty girls we passed; for the Quadrucos, after their usual simple, harmless fashion, had lined the sides of the pathway to see the strangers, although there was no rude pushing or crowding.

Arrived at the palace I invited the two officers in, and Azolta received them as I had instructed her to do. The boy brought cups of green cocoa-nut milk, and Zolca and I pledged our guests. While a meal was being prepared in another room, for we had enlarged the palace, I showed Hoogstraaten the Latin missal and sword left by De Gonneville. Zolca despatched some men to the boat's crew with refreshment.

During our meal I related the details of our journey to the commander, who was anxious to get some knowledge of the country for the Company. I could only assure

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CHAPTER IX.

I fight a Duel—Paul appeals to me to let him go in the Ship—The Secret of the Gold—A Tour of Investigation.

OUR stroll up the valley occupied more than an hour, for I had much to say and the commander much to ask of me. Zolca accompanied us, he having whispered to me before leaving that Paul had been found and confined to his house, which was watched by sentries.

As we approached the palace on our return I was astonished by hearing a startled scream. Running forward, what were my feelings to see Arendsoon with his arms round the struggling form of Azolta, attempting to kiss her. In an instant I had torn the fellow away, and dashed him violently on the ground. He sprang up again and drew his sword, but Captain Hoogstraaten stepped between and sternly ordered him to stand. He did not look a pretty picture, for he had gone down in the dust very hard, and one side of his face was white with it. I

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

him an excuse for leaving off. A great shout of triumph went up from the assembled natives when they saw the blood trickling down his breast.

Captain Hoogstraaten asked me if I were satisfied, and I replied that I was, otherwise, as I had his life in my hands all along, I would have run him through the body. Namoa got some bandages, and the wounded man's shoulder was bound up. A messenger had been despatched for two of the boats' crew. When they appeared, Arendsoon was ready to accompany them, but before he left, the captain demanded his sword, which he unbelted and gave to him.

Hoogstraaten now asked me about the entrance to the bay, and I undertook to show him the channel so that he could bring his ship in and anchor her safely for the night. So favourably had this man's conduct impressed me that I felt greatly moved to take him into my confidence with regard to the gold; but I refrained, and perhaps by doing so some gallant lives were sacrificed.

Zolca and I accompanied the boat in a canoe, and piloted the vessel into the bay. When she was anchored I went on board,

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

that Cross you dishonoured if I saw fit. And you know it!"

Paul's crest fell. "You crow loud, friend Diedrich, but what do you intend? That I signalled the ship 'tis true; but, if you had let me, I would but have gone off as a ship-wrecked sailor, and left you and your valley in peace."

"Then," said I, in answer to this palpable lie, "why did you hail that red-faced sot and tell him about the gold?"

"Why? Because I was mad at being bundled in here and locked up like a thief!"

"And locked up like a thief you will be, until the *Selwaert* sails," I replied; "then, as you say, we will square accounts. Are you better than a thief to try to put men on to steal their country from these poor people, who have done you nothing but kindness."

"Diedrich!" cried Paul in an altered tone, "let me go in this ship. I will swear by all I hold sacred, by my mother's grave, that no word of the gold shall pass my lips. Diedrich! I speak the truth. By all the dangers we passed through together, by the many times we have faced death believe

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

I slept but badly, for gloomy thoughts of the future were before me, and at daylight I was up.

CHAPTER X.

A Storm—Wreck of the *Selwaert*—Paul relates the events of the Mutiny—Hoogstraaten builds another Vessel.

I WAS struck by the look of the sky when I glanced around. The sun rose red in a haze, looking more like a setting than a rising sun. It was dead calm, and very warm. There had been no dew during the night, and the air was oppressive. Hoogstraaten noticed the same, and with a sailor's instinct, prophesied a storm within forty-eight hours.

Where we camped was on the way to the river which Zolca and I had lately visited, and it struck me that I ought to show the captain the bay, as it might lead him to make a mistake if ever he visited the coast again. I proposed this to him, and he was well pleased at the idea. So we continued north, instead of returning home, having

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

M234

DIEDRICH RALLIES THE QUADRUCOS AND RECAPTURES THE TOWN.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN