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Motto:- "Tis not in mortals to command success,
But we'll do more, we'll deserve it."

"An Ocean Voyage from Liverpool to the Islands of the South Seas."

My father was for many years a captain in the Merchant Service, and, two years ago retired with a substantial fortune. Believing that the best way to learn Geography is by travelling, he decided to buy a schooner and take me for a trip to the South Seas.

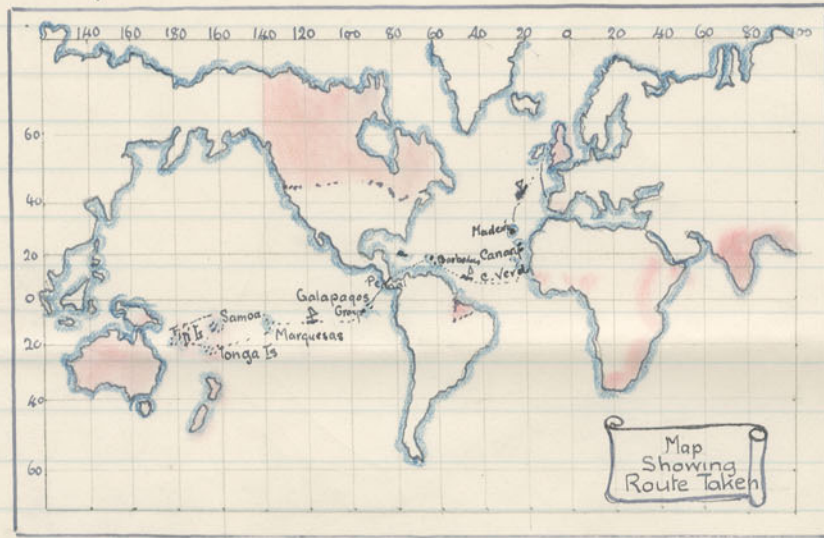


It was a sturdy little craft, which we all helped to paint and clean, christening it Florencia after my little sister. A strong crew was engaged, and I invited two more boys as passengers. For the next fortnight we all worked hard, ordering and storing away provisions for the journey. We also brought a lot of suitable gifts for the South Sea Islanders, and just before sailing we took aboard a good supply of fresh water.

On a bright morning in July, the Florencia left Mersey Dock with a good wind behind her. The breeze freshened, until, passing the Bay of Biscay, it became a half gale, and many of us became seasick. Several times we shipped water, and for a couple of days we had to wait on account of a dense fog.

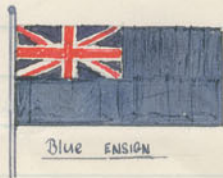
However, after a fortnight we reached the

Madeiras, and were delighted with their beauty, such vegetation clothed the island at every point.



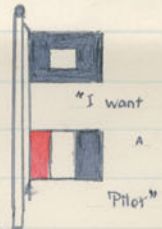
At Funchal the doctor passed us, and the natives besieged us trying to sell us fruit. We threw coins, for which the boys dived and fought under the water. Some dived in at one side of the vessel and came up the other side.

There was a hot wind blowing from the Sahara,



which made the weather almost unbearable. We landed, and were taken for a drive in a sleigh drawn by oxen. On

all sides grew flowers and fruits of every description. We brought some fruit but it decayed before evening.



We left Madeira with a North-East wind, intending to visit Teneriffe. In the distance we saw a wreck, but did not approach it. A flying fish chased by a shark came on deck, and was caught. After four days we sighted Teneriffe towering above the clouds. After the usual formalities, we landed and were

warmly welcomed, because usually the boats stop



Prosperous Peasants of Teneriffe.

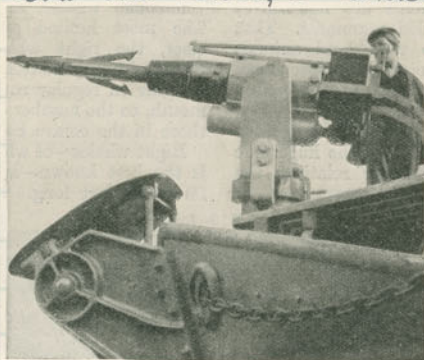
at Santa Cruz. We set out to climb the peak, but only got half way, for the task is not so easy as it seems. It is a very steep peak, clothed with vegetation on its lower slopes, and above this are stretches of pumice stone. We were very glad to rest half way up, and then returned to our schooner, had supper and slept soundly.

The wind had dropped, so we steamed away passed Grand Canary on to Cape Verde Isles. The weather was very hot, with the sun almost overhead. Shoals of flying fish rose a considerable height above the water. At last a fresh breeze arose, and in three days we anchored off Porto Grande. We climbed a hill and saw the native huts dotted like beehives on the slopes. What struck me most was the absence of twilight. The stars would be shining gloriously, and ten minutes later it would be daybreak, and an hour after that, the sun would be well over the horizon. We laid in fresh water and as it was calm we set off on our engine for the West Indies. It was in the season of the equinoctial rains, which came down in sheets. Sometimes we had a breeze and sometimes an awful calm when



Flying - Fish.

the sails went flapping and spars creaking. We saw one vessel, a whaler, and a shoal of grampuses.



"The Deadly Harpoon Gun."

After three weeks we neared Trinidad, and spent some time visiting this island, Barbadoes and Santa Lucia. The scenery around here is beautiful, and suitable for Europeans, a large portion of the population being white. These three islands be-

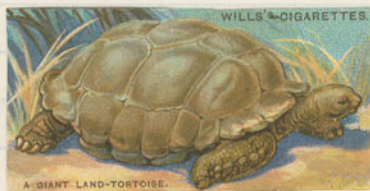
-long to Britain. We pointed ^{our bows} for the Panama Canal and soon arrived at Colon. Here the doctor and port official came, and our boat was measured, for toll is paid according to tonnage. We stowed sails and were towed through the various, immense locks by means of electric motors. All along the route were little wireless stations. The prettiest part of the canal is a lake, surrounded by



A Thriving Panama Village.

well clothed hills. Passing Balboa we entered the Pacific. For the next week it rained hard and we saw no life until crossing the Equator we reached Galapagos Isles, a group of grey volcanic rocks. The scenery here is most beautiful. On every side stretch coffee, banana, and sugar plantations, and also lime groves. The mosquitoes and sand-flies

proved a pest. I had made friends with a native boy, and when I was leaving, he gave me a tortoise as a parting gift. I saw many tortoises on these islands.



"My new pet"

It was difficult to get away from Wreck Bay on account of the calms and dangerous currents; but at last a good south-east wind set in, and we reached the Marquesas in

three weeks. During that time, we were kept busy patching the sails.

It is impossible to describe the beauty of the Pacific Islands — and the South Seas are studded with them. They are made either of coral or of volcanic

rock. The coral islands are clothed with grass and coco-nut palms, and many of them encircle a lagoon, whose waters glow with every shade of blue, purple and green.



"Sunset among the South Seas."

Overhead the sky is deep blue, while on the shores the waves break in white foam. The volcanic islands are very fertile, and are most attractive, on account of their luxuriant vegetation.

Many of these islands belong to Britain, and since the Great War, many of the German islands were handed over to us. We had not enough time



"Coral atoll encircling a lagoon"

to visit all our possessions. But we sailed first to the Tonga or Friendly Isles some of these are coral atolls, and there is also an active volcano For the first



Coco-nut Island in Pacific.

time in my life I saw a volcano in eruption and it was very impressing

We visited the Fij Islands and I would like to describe

a fish-hunt by the natives I would also like to tell you about Samoa and its people, and Stevensons House which we saw — but space will not permit

I realised while cruising among the islands, how many of them would provide healthy homes and increased fortune for British emigrants; and



† Frizzy-haired Fijian

I am not so sure that I shall not settle down there someday myself.



† SCHOOLHOUSE IN LOVELY SAMOA.