

Where Pirates Once Roamed.

Tragic Story of Blackbeard and the Termination of His Career.

Special Correspondence.
NORFOLK, Va.—Something about the serene landscapes and quiet waters of the Chesapeake seemed to have charmed the pleasure seekers of the early days of the colony. Most of them came to find time to visit Hampton and at least one of them spent the last years of his life as a country gentleman at this locality as famous in the past as it is now. Among those whose names are associated more or less closely with the history of Norfolk are Captain John Rolfe, Bonnet and Jean de Solleys, Even Sir Henry Morgan is said to have visited the city of Norfolk. The notorious Thatch, or Blackbeard, the better known as the pirate, he had a black beard which he had braided into three bunches. Each tail was tied at the end with a bright colored ribbon and sometimes the ends were tucked behind his ears. From his comical costume, making his great and doubly conspicuous, he derived his name, Blackbeard.

For many years he terrorized the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas. No one seemed bold enough to undertake his capture. At last, however, Governor Spotswood, of Virginia, fitted out an expedition against him and after a sharp fight the expedition returned with the pirate's head hanging from the yard arm of the vessel.

Early in his career Blackbeard made a trip to Honduras. On his return he cruised back and forth in front of Charleston harbor and captured 11 ships richly laden with the products of the colonies. Several hundred prisoners were also taken and these were sold for ransom for three hundred pounds of medicine which he sorely needed. After this he enjoyed a vacation lasting through one season. During this period he made the acquaintance of the governor of North Carolina, and for a while, the two were on excellent terms. Inaction soon pulled up on the pirate. At the end of one season of quiet life ashore with the governor of the land, he longed for the sea and felt his wild life calling him once more.

He said he had found the craft deserted floating about the high seas. Nobody believed him, of course, knowing his bloodthirsty character. After this all sorts of bloody deeds were of daily occurrence along the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas. Blackbeard grew bolder every day. At length North Carolina people declared they could stand him no longer, and their own governor being unable to do anything, they appealed to Gov. Spotswood of Virginia. The Virginia legislature offered a reward of 500 pounds for his capture. Feeling that this was insufficient, Gov. Spotswood fitted out two sloops with guns and put one of them under the command of Capt. Maynard. The other was under the command of Capt. Brand. Preparations to assault Blackbeard were made. Finally the two sloops put to sea with the governor's commission to capture Blackbeard, dead or alive. Blackbeard was at this time on board his vessel in Ocracoke Inlet, on the shore of North Carolina. As soon as the two sloops came in range of him they received a broadside discharge of 40 cannon. The Virginians, undaunted by this, returned the fire with spirit. In the midst of the cannonade Blackbeard got into a small boat with 20 more of his desperadoes and rowed to the sloop commanded by Maynard. In a few minutes he was aboard that vessel and for half an hour a furious struggle raged on the decks of the little craft. Through all the scuffle Maynard looked for Blackbeard and Blackbeard was equally anxious to reach the captain of the sloop. At last they met. Blackbeard had found his match. Realizing that Maynard was his master with the sword he attempted to shoot him with a pistol. Maynard meantime passed his rapier through the back of Blackbeard's bloody career was at an end. With their leader dead, the remainder of the pirates jumped overboard or gave themselves up.

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Discoveries That May Bear Upon Rebecca's Wooing and Sampson's Death

THE romantic work of ascertaining the light which modern exploration can throw upon the Palestine of the Biblical age and upon Old Testament narratives adds today another volume to the library that has accumulated since these researches began in 1864.

The new volume, "Bible Sidelights From the Mount of Gezer" is by the well-known antiquary, R. A. Stewart Macalister, director of excavations for the Palestine Exploration Fund.

The site of the ancient and buried city of Gezer was identified 36 years back, but its excavation is the most recent enterprise, begun in 1902 and brought down to last summer, when some glimpses of the results achieved were given at the annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The present book is the forerunner and popular summary of the complete account now in preparation on a scale of considerable magnitude.

The excavations have added 1,300 years to the early history of Gezer, dating it back to 3,000 B. C., when a diminutive cave-dwelling race lived there. A landmark in its Biblical history is that the city was given by the king of Egypt to his daughter, whom she married Solomon. It stood on the verge of the territory inhabited by that mysterious race the Philistines, and when David routed them he went in pursuit as far as Gezer.

Among the many Old Testament stories which have fascinated humanity are the idyl of Rebecca (Genesis xxiv) and the exploits of Sampson.

Rebecca, who went to draw water from a well, was picked out from other maidens by the servants of Abraham,

who was in quest of a wife for his master's son. She thus became the wife of the patriarch, Isaac, and the mother of Esau and Jacob. The unearthing of houses at Gezer helps experts to fill in the story of the wooing of Rebecca by reconstructing for us the home of the maiden and her interesting brother Laban.

The death of Sampson, narrated in the Book of Judges, has been ranked as a myth by critics who could not accept the possibility of his supposed achievement in pulling down the pillars and killing so many Philistines. But in a stratum at Gezer, some 300 years older than the time of Sampson, the excavators have found a form of building which answers to a remarkable extent the conditions of the story. It is a temple with a portico supported by four wooden pillars.

The discoveries at Gezer also enable the experts to form a fair conception of the Horites, a hitherto unknown race of cave dwellers referred to in Genesis and Deuteronomy. The Amorites, who are mentioned for their "Iniquities" in Genesis, now stand in clearer light for their many forms of idolatry and moral abominations are better understood by the digging out of the "High Place" of Gezer, which is the largest early Palestinian sanctuary or place of worship yet unearthed.—London Mail.

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