Many and the second second

**What do they intend to do with him?" I asked.

"I expect," said Monsignor, "that they have kept him to help them to navigate the ship. None of the fellows I saw looked educated and qualified as anvigators."

"You'll find that's it." said the grasshopper. "But will be navigate the ship!" he proceeded with excitement. "Ought he to lift his sextant, or take a single peep at his barometer upless mader samurances which will provide for our safety and arrival in a reasonable time in America?"

"Trust him to know his business," said Monsignor, gently, "You are night, madam. It is comforting to know that he is on board. Yet what must be his feelings? His crew sent adrift, his ship captured, her course altereu, himself a prisoner!" He uprolled his eyes till nothing showed but the whites, and Mr. Macbride groaned in emypathy with that fine expressive face of misery.

At this moment the wiry man thrust his head into the skylight, and called in his hourse note:

"Below there! Is Miss Haves amongst ye?" I started and felt myself turn ashen.

yet I went at once to the table and looked up and said, "What do you want?"

"The captain wishes to have a talk along with you, miss," answered the fellow, persevering in his voice of studied hoarseness. 'In plain words, we've given him his choice, and he wants you to help him to decide. I'll onen the doors if you'll come up.

He withdrew his head. "This is no ruse. I hope." oried the Colonel. 'Miss Hayes is a fine young woman, and by thunder the ladies must be respected and protected, first and foremost." and now he seemed in carnest. for he sprang to his tegs with his face fall of blood, and a wild look at the frame where the man's head had been.

"I don't think Miss Hayes has any meed to be afraid." said the hard-faced lady. 'Pray consider,' said she, adtressing the others. "It's her stopther who sends for her."

I went to my cabin without more

ado and put on my hat and jacket, then mounted the companion steps and knocked upon the doors; they were immediately opened by the wiry man closed them afresh, by some arrangement of stanle and nadlook. I felt exoccdingly frightened when the doors were closed and I found myself alone. that is, the only woman. The western light was a blaze of splendor, and the ship bowed stately before the breeze in the royal dress of crimson the sunset draped her with. Seven or eight fel lows stood about the decks in two or threes. One grasping a musket guarded the main hatch. I saw no other sentry. I sent one quick look seaward in search of the boat, but out in the direction she had been heading for, it was all molting dark blue water, flash ful with red gleams slipping from one crest to another, with the two sail on the verge of the deep showing full cutlasses, and there were no cutlasses breamted, and as large again as from in the arms chest, parcels of weapons the cabin window.

The wiry man said roughly, "It'll be all right with them. One of those ships has shifted her helm to pick the boat up. Now you'd better come along and see the captain. Us men are impatient and want him to decide

Thus speaking he led the way into the forepart of the shim.

CHAPTER VL

THE CAPTAIN VISITS THE PASSENGERS The range of the ship's deck looked strange with the fresh orew of sauntering burly rogues: the 'tweendeck folk were under hatches, and the fellow who guarded them glauced grimly at me as I passed. Possibly he was the hideons man the Colonel had spoken of. He squinted, and had a hare liv and red hair, and a huge knob of tumour doubled the girth of the neck under his left ear. His face, almost to the composalment of his eyes, was cover-with small crawling red whiskers.

The others seemed of the average Type of saxmes, or rather of boatmen; You may see such men leaning alongshore against capstans, anchor-flukes, public house fronts. They were variously attired, one in a moleskin cap. another in a rusty wide-awake, here a per jacket, there a thick jersey. They trudged in short walks, their bands for the most part buried in their breeches' pockets, their backs humped. A big deck house stood behind or abaft the foremast. The after part was the ship's galley, and the fore division contained the boatswain's salimaker's, and carpenter a bortha. The wiry man went to a door on the starboard side of this house, and smartly rapping upon it,

alided it open, roaring in its grooves: "Here's the lady an let's have your decision quick if you please," said he. I campion express the brutal insolence of his sone and manner. I looked at

Bin with disgust and terror. . 'Step in.'' said be, with a rough From the floor so with coffinily vio-

to the second second

rather bigger than an average samon. cabin. It contained a couple of bunks, a locker, and a table. My stepfather sat upon the rocker, stiff, and staring in front of him like a blind man. Llis familiar frown blackened the expression of his face as he looked tame. He seemeed baggard in features somewhat and disordered in apparel. Afterwards in thinking how this might be, seeing that his sea-clothes were not of a sort to be easily "disordered," I found in the photographic memories of my sight that the impression was produced by his collar and cravat. He made no sign, and I felt afraid. Presently combing down his face with his flugers as though he would tighten the slack stays of his wits behind his eyes, he said:

"I want to consult you. My mind is unhinged. This is the most dreadful situation that ever the master of a ship was placed in. "

I sat down but answered nothing. "I suppose you know," said be, "that they have driven all the original ship's company, saving myself, into the boat we took the sooundrels out of. They would not send me away. No. The devils most keep me to navigate the vessel, though I begged them to choose one of the mates and despatch ine with my men. "What are their plane?" I asked.

"How do I know," he answered, speaking with a sudden passion. This is the alternative they give me: carry this ship to a place which we shall name to you, or quit her in an open boat."

"Which will you do?" "I don't understand the slovenly coolness of that question," said be. 'I may set a value upon my life. I hope, without regard to your orinion of ta worth "

"I would give anything," said I 'that they had chosen one of the mates and sent you a away with the old ship's oombany.'

"Yes, I entreated them to do so. "Faher." said I. "this seizure in the result of a conspiracy that must have

been arranged before the ship sailed." "How can I tell," he answered, frowning and folding his arms and leaning back.

"They are saying in the cabin that there are no pirates in these seas. That boat load of men hanging in the path of the vessel was a ruse to capture her. The ship they belonged to was not likely to be very far off. Was it that schooner that spoke us a night or two ago do you think?" "Is that thought in the salcon?"

"It's my own suspicion." "What do the passengers say about the business?"

"We are horribly frightened. We are looked up and an armed man guards us. We are in fear of our lives, and we can talk of nothing but what is to become of us."

"But what is said?" he exclaimed, searching my eyes with his keen gaze as though he would constrain by the passion and grief of his looks to be brief and frank.

"The hardest thing, the only thing perhaps worth noting in all the talk who, on my stepping on deck, securely was the exclamation of one of them, that you and the officers must be conederates in this conspiracy.

"Who said that?" he demanded. stiffening himself erect into his former oliud man's posture. "I forget."

"Recall the name." "I forget "

"Was it the priest -was it the Colonel-was it Mr. Jackson?" "I forget."

He did not believe me, but then he knew for all my good humor I had the | light. spirit of a mule. "What led to that remark?"

"Why," said I, "I think it was owing to the stewardess saying that as the rogues had armed themselves with must have been secretly laid in for them in dock."

"How did she know what the arms' chest held?" he replied, looking as though what I said relieved his mind. equipped for this voyage. I saw to it myself at the request of the owners. Do you know that there are ninetyeight thousand pounds in gold in this ship?"

"Yes, it has been talked of in the

cabin." "They must have read the statement of her freight in the newspapers. '' he exclaimed. 'It was swiftly olanned—a diabolical plan it will rain me."

"How did the people in the boat know exactly where to find this ship?" "The track of the liners is constant. They took their chance, I suppose. Besides, what do I know about it?" he shonted. "You talk to me suspiciously. I don't like your airs and looks. You have declared you met one of the villains at my house before of horror. he sailed. Do you still insist upon

that P*** "No. You have told me I am wrong. There's a man on board very much like the man I saw."

"And that's about it." said he. but I called you here to consult with you. What shall I do. If I decline adrift. Why should they force me to struction." sacrifice my life? They have ruined me alse?"

"Is there no hope of re-possessing our-

salvas of the vessel?" "What do you advise?" he exclaimed, impatiently. "Repossess!" he went on, with much irritating sarcasm in his manner. "I stand alone, nor, observing I did not answer. What help am I to expect from the heroes of the saloon? The men bave seized the ship, and the moneys theirs shot him to save his life. That's how whilst they have hold of her. They the captain would be serving us by are armed, every man, a merciless allowing himself to be sent adrift." devilish lot, as may be indeed by their turning adrift a whole company of men in an open boat at nightfall. Reposess! ing myself had dropped his knife and priest, half turning his face in my di- They have heavily armed themselves, That would mean a bloody business, fork to stare at me aghast, with his the sud t had for the mioon heroes and the gut- under jaw a little fallen.

ter fencibles of the 'tween cecks, our worse for you women."

It was almost dark now: I could carcely see his face. The shadow had come on a sudden in a long moan of wet blast over the rail. A hoarse voice shouted sharply from the quarter-deck. A minute later I was listening to the yowling of men pulling at roues: it was a song of the blue water satior, but not sung as the old company used to sing it. The air in their mouths wanted the waltzing, deep sea roll it takes when chanted by real seamen. My stepfather went to one of the little windows and looked forth; he carried bis hands behind him, and whilst he stared I watched his fingers working as though he ground tobacco into spriff.

"What do you advise?" he exclaim-

"If they send you in an open boat thev'll take care there's a ship in the Leighborhood, I suppose?" said I.

"They'll not wait for a ship to be in the neighborhood as you call it.' he answered. "Let me tell them now I refuse to navigate the ship, and they'll send me adrift out of hand in the gig that hangs astern, to live, if I can, through the night. What do you advise?** he repeated.

"If I were in your place I should consult my honor first of all."

"What has my honor got to do with it'" he shouted. "We pick up a boat load of ruffians in good faith, believing them shipwrecked men. They rise, rrm themselves, and seize the ship. How is my honor concerned?" I made no reply.

"You can return to the saloon." said he, after a pause, "and explain to the passengers the situation I am placed in Perhaps they'll agree with me that the commander of a ship should never desert his post." "When is your answer expected?"

said I. with a faint smile. "When I have made up my mind."

Saying which he took the door in his hands as though he would slide it open. and then recollecting himself, beat opon it. It was thrust along its grooves from outside by a fellow who held a musket in a posture of readidess; yet the house had not been sentinelled when I entered it! I passed through the door filled with wonder. shame, and temper and the moment I was out the armed man rushed the door to with an unnecessarry show of savage energy.

The sun was gone, and the sea glanoed bleakly in froth under a patch of crimson haze, but it was dark in the east with a sky full of stars. The wind had shifted and freshened, and the ship was lying over under reduced cauvas, washing white through the dusk of the early night, and the stars over the sweeping mastheads seemed to listen un in the silence there to the wusic in the shrouds.

I was terribly depressed and frightsued, and whilst I went along the deck I tried to understand why I had been him whilst he said. 'This I think did nothing but wonder and listen. brought into this mysterious astonish- will do," held his draft to the light ing business, why, in other words, he should have carried me along with him this voyage? Some object he had, back: We, the undersigned saloon but I could find none.

When I reached the quarter deck a figure stepped from the mizzen rig. in command of the vessel. Your inging; it was a wiry man; so far the terests are identical with ours. If and boarsely:

We can't keep all on waiting. "

face by the starshine and faint twi-

"Never you mind." he answered. "If he declines to navigate this ship Colonel called out: and you send him adrift, what will

He laughed. "Do?" he exclaimed. bit fleudishly, guess?" 'Without him anyway. How've ye counselled him?"

"He needs no advice," said I, and I left him swaying on his heels against the western rusty sear that slipped to and fro past the squares in the shrouds and stepped to the companion hatch "The arms' chest was handsomely which the fellow on guard there at once opened.

The lamps were alight and the people at supper. I took my accustomed place clad as I was for the deck, and was instantly and officiously waited upon by the steward whose hovering air and pale anxious looks marked him made a difficulty of his pen, and then as eager as any to get the news.

"Well," cried Colonel Wills, "have you seen the Captain, Miss Haves? And if so, how does he? Have the scoun- with a little lingering gaze as of addrels ill used him? Will he come

amongst us once more?" destination which they don't name or eye was upon him. The elbows of the be sent adrift in an open boat and take grasshopper rose high as he sat; he

his chance of living or dying." "Great God!" cried Mr. Jackson, and one of the ladies uttered a scream thing was done in a leaping way by then with a kindly smile upon an-

"He'll take command, of course?" anid Monsignor.

"I hope so," I answered.

sent adrift?" "She thinks not," replied Monsig.

son. "seeing another cutting his throat clearly under the light

"But where are we to be steered to?" asked Mr. Macbride who, on my seat-

"What is a likely place?" he cried. A good many eyes were directed at the steward as the only scafaring anthorsty in the saloon. The challenge was direct, and he answered:

"I allow it'll be for the West Coast of Africa." "That'll be back Europe way." said

the Colonel. "Why the West Coast of Africa?" sugpired the comedian, looking at the

thward with his dusky glance lifting under a lowering brow. "'Cause it's a easy coast to wreck ships on, and there's never anything

to speak of a-keeping a look-out there," answered the steward. "Is home easily reached from the West Coast of Africa?" enquired

somebody. "It'll be more like our being made slaves of than going home." a swered the steward, with a bollow, frightful laugh "Them sands is coated with wandering Arabs, who strips all Christians which falls into their ands, and marches them off naked into slavery. "It's true," exclaimed the Colonel

with a wild nod and an oath. "We merely frighten ourselves, said Monsignor. "The men may not have the cast of Africa in their minds at all."

"What views does your stepfather hold, miss?' exclaimed Mr. Bergheim. 'Has he no message to send that's likely to keep up our spirits?"

"He ought to take command." cried the hard faced lady. "If they send him out of the ship our case will be hopeless."

'He cannot make up his mind,' said "He naturally shrinks from the idea of an open boat, yet holds that his honor might be concerned, that he might be suspected of complicity were he to take charge of a ship manned as the Mobock now is."

A silence followed this speech. I con tinued, "It might help him, perhaps determine him, if one of you gentlemen would draw up a paper, signed by the saloon passengers, urging upon him to retain command in the actorest of the general safety that he might see this ship and ourselves through the business, be the end what it may

"You are a clever young woman, cried the Colonel, looking at me with unmixed admiration, 'and the paper you recommend shall be drawn. By whom? By you, Monsignor?"

"I will write an appeal to the captain with pleasure," answered the priest. "It is an excellent idea of Miss Haves."

A part of the table was cleared, pen and paper procured, Monsigner squared his elbows, and after a glance for inspiration at the lamp, wrote.

We were all silent as the tomb whilst the priest's pen scratched. It, was hard to say whether we were observed or not from above; the skylight.

"To Cantain Amelius Sinclair, commanding the American clipper Mopassengers in this ship, petition you arnestly and respectfully to continue gentry were nameless. He said gruffly , on leave us by resolution of your own we shall be without a head to "What does the captain mean to do? look up to. Whatever may be the isone in store for us in this ship, we en-"Have you no navigator amongst treat you to abide with us that, should you?" said I, stopping and looking at his a moment of extremity arrive, we may have you with us to counsel and encourage us."

I bit my lip when this was read. The

"A 1, all but 'a moment of extrem ity.' Monsignor. That's putting it a

"I'll correct anything that's amiss." said the priest.

"Nothing could be more beautifully expressed." said the hard-faced ladv. "Let's sign it and send it and make

an end," cried Mr. Jackson. Monsignor was requested to attach his name. Colonel and Mrs. Wills followed, and then the rest. I did not offer to sign, nor was it proposed that I shold do so. I could not forbear a smile at the several characters the people expressed in their mode of signing. Colonel Wills squared at the paper. flourished it; he scrawled as though it were a name not to be lightly communicated, and when done he fell back miration of the signature. Mr. Jackson humped his back, sorawled, and "He has had this offer," said, I folded his arms over the paper whilst either to command this ship to some he wrote; you saw he believed every Luard cried out loudly "We are dewrote with incredible swiftness, dashed the pen down, jumped up-everythis gentleman, whose name I have forgotten if I ever heard it.

When everybody had signed the steward was requested to go on deck and "It's his business to stick to the ship tell the wiry man he was wanted beanyhow." said the Colonel. "If he low. He went up the steps and knockgoes, who's left There's never a navied. The companion doors were opened. gator amongst us, bet yer. The fellows and after a short growling hum of talk of his frown, suited the cast of his will make off with the money and leave that came wordless to our ears through face. His eyes were bright, despite an to navigate the vessel they'll send me us to wash about to our eternal de- the seething of the night wind in the ashen hue of skin, and a drawn counopen hatch, the wiry man came below. tenauce that came near to haggardness! That's much how Captain Sinolair If he was armed he kept his weapon me. Shall I allow them to destroy reasons," said I, eating and drinking well concealed. He frowned as he with all the calmness I dould sum- stared about him, but as I thought though sufficiently clear, "I have to watching him from a corner, he acted thank you for your netition. It is con-"There's no fear, I suppose," said a part. His looks seemed forced. Or, Mr. Jackson, "of his deciding to be perhaps, when it came to a pinch, be peculiarly due to you, Monsignor?" most of his spirit would be found in i bis scowl.

"Why am I sent for?" says he, com-'An Irish sentry,' said Mr. Jack. ing to the table and showing himself, ish of his hand towards me. "Will you kindly tell us your name?"

says Monsignor. 'Owen-William Owen."

per g sent adrift in an open boat?" "Well," said Owen, preserving his frowning stare, and speaking with

brntal hinntness. The grasshopper's elbows twitched, and the Colonel gazed blankly at the wiry man.

"We saloon passengers," said the priest, holding up the paper, "have petitioned the captain to retain command, and our desire is that this document may be placed without loss of time in his hands. Will you give it to him?'

"Yes," answered the other, taking it: "and I hope it'll settle his meaning one way or t'other. If he don't arrive at a decision before dawn he leaves the ship."

"But unless we are to go too, why not keep him whather he decides or not?" said L "His being in the vessel can't matter to you. You may as well throw him over the side and drown him at once as send him adrift in an open boat."

The man bent his gaze at me with an expression of attention, but made no answer.

"But, for goodness sake," shricked the hardfaced lady, bursting out with an hysterical violence one would never have convected from so set and determined a countenance, 'can't vou tell ns. since you've seized the ship, what

you mean to do with us?" He answered her with an ugly look, then saying in his hoarse voice to Monsignor, "I'll hand this to the Captain at once. " he left the cabin.

The Colonel extended his hand, and writhed it as though he throttled something invisible. Mr. Jackson quitted the table and came to the sofa I was seated upon. He folded his arms upon his breast, and leaning back exclaimed, "That fellow is an actor."

"There's something strained about

him," I answered. "He's got himself up as a pirate, "continued the comedian, 'in throat and scowl. The chink of the metal's not real. When the bishop, asked the savage how he could go unclothed, he answered, 'He was all face.' So is that Owen. I see too much. I ought to know my trade. But it's well played, seeing that extravagance wouldn't do even at sea in these days, when the real thing's dead and gone, and the blue light's burnt out.'

"He frightens us all the same." "Has your stepfather any notion of

what's going to happen?" "None." "Was it pre-arranged, does he think"

Or were the scoundrels really shipwrecked men, who, as others did before them, have risen upon their suc- probable fate on any account whatcourers"" "He's in great distress, but will him

his views. I am sure the petition will

decide him." A more melancholy array of figures caught a look from him. than we saloon passengers of the Mosignor rose, and after looking around | We could not divert ourselves. We Every face expressed consternation and universal fidgetiness, moreover, Nobody sat still. It was a ceaseless

> coming and going with us under one pretence or another. Meanwhile silent and lost in thought up in a corner, out of the way of the light and the observation of the passengers, I took note that the wind freshened, that a sharp sea was beginning to run, and that the weather was finding work for the men I heard the noise of ropes flung down, an occasional hoarse bawling, sometimes the low unfiled groans of canvas slowly strangling in the grip of its gear. The rudder worked in shocks and harsh tremors, and a frequent wash of water

made white moons of the lee portholes. I heard Mr. Jackson say it was nine o'clock whilst he stood at the table gazing about him; habit with him associated the hour with the steward and glasses: the companion doors were opened, a salt shrill edge as of a boatswains' pipe sang in the wind as it screeched athwart the opening, and my stepfather came slowly down the

It was raining on deck, or if not raining the blast was full of spray; his coat sparkled and his face was wet. He achore?" exclaimed the grasshopper. lifted his cap and came to the table. The moment the passengers saw him they made a rush and he was surrounded in a breath. I sat still up in my corner. Had he been all ear with brains enough behind for the reception of as many meanings as he was plied with. still he could have done nothing but gaze helpiessly and darkly around.

Then seeing how it was. Monsignor feating our own anxiety by deafening of speech bowed to us, and went un the captain. Let us have a little patience. He will tell us everything," and he put his hand upon one, and other, and the good sense of the rest beloing, the people returned to their

My stepfather took a table-chair that gave him a command of his audience. thought he looked very handsome. His gloom, deepened by the wrinkles "Ladies and gentlemen." he ex-

claimed in a voice a little broken, siderate. Possibly my gratitude may "No. the suggestion was your stepdaughter's, 'answered the priest with a fine hopeful smile and a cordial flour-

The captain did not glance my way. "It has helped me to arrive at a decision." he continued. "Could anything occur more dreadful or mexpect-"Miss Hayes has had an interview ed than this seizure? We are absolutewith her stepfather," continued the ly at the mercy of twelve villains. rection, "and we understand that you and are clearly a devilish, audacious give him the option of navigating this gang. You have heard that they "The captain down't know." I am alin a an unuamed destination, or of cleared the ship of her original com-

Dany. And was old they geen more said he, clasping his hands upon his knees as though he wrong his fingers. "That I may navigate the vessel to a place where they can securely plunder

and then abandon her." "Then how shall we manage?" said the hardfaced lady, whose starting eyes and advanced head was like a screen-

ing fit to the eve. "I cannot answer you until the ment tell me where they intend I should

steer for," answered the captain. "But let us understand," exclaimed Monsignor. "You are to carry this ship to a part of some coast where the men will be able to land their plunder. When this is done?"

"Gentlemen and ladies," cried the captain a little wildly; "let me hear first of all the intentions of the men: I will then talk with you."

"You are now in command, ...

"Yes, sir. When your petition

reached me I deliberated, then called to the man whose name I find is Owen, and I told him I would take charge the ship in the interests of the comme

tain?" said Mr. Jackson.

safety." "Without any stipulations?" manded the grasshopper, "It came either to my consenting, er being sent adrift—and feel this weather. sir," rounding with something of

fierceness upon the passenger. "I beg pardon-I meant didn't yeu inquire before you consented to continue in command where you would be expected to carry the ship to?" said the gras-hopper.

"No, sir," answered the captain, "that I have yet to learn."

I perceived that some of the passen gers exchanged glances, as though resenting the grasshopper's tone that took perhaps a character of insolence from being high-pitched and urgent with elbow.

"You'll not tell us. captain," called out Mr. Macbride from the side of his wife "that they expect you to wreak this ship?"

"What's been said about that?" rosred the Colonel. 'Isn't this time allfired enough that Mr. Macbride should sit there working up imagination into a very hell for our solace by questions heaping horior upon horror?"

"I have my wife with me. I have a right to know our probable fate," exclaimed Mr. Macbride, faintly. "And I have my wife with me," shouted the Colonel, looking at the

huge hulk who was seated a few chairs from him. "Who doesn't want to know her ever," Mrs. Wills whipped out, nodding hard and continuously at the

eelf appear soon, I hope, and give you olergyman. I watched my stepfather secretly and closely all this time, but never ones

"It would be as well." said Mr. the image of the draped table as bril. hock presented that night the ocean Bergheim, "to reason out our chances liantly as a mirror. Presently Mon- wave probably never lifted and sank. apon a business like footing-by which I should say let us be practical. 1 take it that all of us who are assembled here desire to get to America. Let us alarmed expectation. There was a once know that we are proceeding to America, with our baggage and personal effects quite safe, and, I take it. we are all content. We have no interest in the ship, none in the gold which we are to believe, captain, is the cause of this piracy. Now, I should be pleased if the men could be made to understand that we care not for the ship nor her contents, but for our lives and baggage only; they should be glad to get rid of us easily by transferring us to a vessel

> that is bound to the west." "Chaw!" cried the comedian. "here's a rich olipper ship piratically seized are the villains going to haul along side the first vessel they encounter and send us aboard with the full story of the outrage?"

> "Why not?" responded Mr. Bergbeim, with arms advanced and a shring that sauk his head. "Fifty to one the original crew was picked up and the story is therefore known." "Are our lives in danger, captain?"

exclaimed a lady.

conditions under which I re-assume command," he answered. "But how is that to be provided for when the ship's arrived off the place where they mean to carry the gold

At that instant the wind howled h

"The saftey of you all is one of the

the companion, and down along with the breath of the wet, cold night blast came a boarse crv-"Captain Sinclair, will you step deck? The ship's in want of you. My father upturned his eyes at the tell-tale compass, rose with the air of one whose spirit is broken, then but-

toning up his coat without a syllable

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